

18,000 more permits to be issued for Palestinian workers

Donors discuss ways to reduce PA's deficit

ISRAEL will grant an additional 18,000 work permits to Palestinians and permit 300 more trucks from the territories to enter the country daily, Israeli and American officials said Friday.

Israel made the announcement at Thursday evening's meeting at the State Department of the ad hoc liaison committee of countries contributing to Palestinian development efforts.

It was the first such meeting since April.

The new ambassador to the US, Elyahu Ben-Ellisar, met a PA official for the first time when he shook Economic and Planning Minister Nabil Shaath's hand at the session.

He told Israeli reporters Friday that it was "difficult" for him to do so.

An American official said the US believes that 60,000 Palestinians working in Israel would provide the tax revenue necessary to meet the PA budget, and that the Israeli steps represent a "good beginning."

The committee discussed ways of reducing the PA's projected budget deficit of \$127 million this year, and to expand short and long-term employment in the territories through what are referred to as "core" infrastructure projects.

The six-hour meeting "came in a good context" of the previous day's initial summit between Prime Minister Binyamin

HILLEL KUTLER WASHINGTON

Netanyahu and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, the US official said.

"The net effect was that we left, I think, at the end of the meeting with a strong sense that just as the political process had been put back on track... the economic process as embodied by the donor effort was also put on track," he said.

The increases will bring to 50,000 people and 800 trucks allowed into Israel daily, and are to be implemented in the coming weeks, according to the Israeli and US officials.

The Israeli official also said the government will ease the entry of workers and ambulances seeking to reach hospitals in eastern Jerusalem, and will grant more than 50 percent more passes for Palestinian businessmen to circulate in Israel.

The US official conceded that the steps are but a stop-gap measure because with 30,000 Palestinians entering the work force annually, "Israel is not the answer" and the PA ultimately "will need to generate a self-sustaining economy that has more employment opportunities within the territories."

Consequently, Thursday's committee meeting had "less of a focus on near-term job creation," while looking more toward devel-

oping long-range employment, he said.

The committee also explored the building of a railroad line linking Karni and Erez to Ashdod to expedite exports of Palestinian products.

American officials expect a team from the World Bank to visit the region this week to study the matter and said Israel is considering linking the railroad to the West Bank.

"The essence of what they did demonstrates that they understand very well that it's important to try to alleviate the conditions in the territories and that they, too, have a stake in that happening," he said of Israel's announcements.

The committee will meet again in Gaza in two weeks to develop a strategy for prodding donor countries to contribute their pledges by the time a consultative group of all donor countries meets in Europe on November 18, the US official said.

Fifty-four percent of the \$2.2 billion pledged to the Palestinian cause at a conference here three years ago has actually been disbursed, he said, citing World Bank figures, with \$287 million provided this year.

The US will also send out invitations next week for an unrelated meeting here in early October of those countries interested in investing in Lebanon's reconstruction, he added.



Peace Now activists carry lit torches en route to the Prime Minister's Residence in Jerusalem last night, in a demonstration urging continuation of the peace process.

Demonstrators urge government to continue peace process

ON the eve of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's visit to the US, left-wing groups demonstrated last night in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv urging the government to continue with the peace process.

About 1,000 members of the Peace Now movement held a torch-light procession to the Prime Minister's Residence in Jerusalem. The procession marked the third anniversary of the Oslo agreement. The demonstrators called on Netanyahu to honor the agreements, and in particular to carry out the long-delayed partial withdrawal of IDF troops from Hebron.

Peace Now Leader Sali Reshef accused Netanyahu of trying to halt the process. "There is no peace process," Reshef said. "The prime minister had a meeting with (Palestinian leader) Yasser Arafat, but did his best to make it seem unimportant."

At a smaller demonstration in Tel Aviv, at the square where Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was murdered, his son Yuval said the peace camp would support the Netanyahu government if it continues with the peace process.

News agencies

Christopher seeks 'concrete' steps from Israel

News agencies

LONDON - Only a few days after Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu met with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, the Clinton Administration is urging Israel to take other "concrete steps" toward the Palestinians.

Indicating growing impatience with Netanyahu within the Clinton Administration, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said American officials pressed for the meeting with Arafat and now it is time "to take tangible steps to move the peace process forward."

Christopher told reporters traveling with him on a five-day trip to Europe that he would take this line when he meets Foreign Minister David Levy in London today.

That session is designed to set an agenda for Netanyahu's meetings in Washington tomorrow with President Bill Clinton, Christopher and Defense Secretary William Perry.

The US had been intensely

involved behind the scenes in persuading Netanyahu to meet Arafat last Wednesday.

Christopher said that first meeting has been "a very important psychological breakthrough."

"And now we'd like to see that translated into... concrete steps to move forward in the actual [peace] process."

"There are a number of issues on the table and I hope there will be a momentum coming out of the meeting that will enable the parties to address these."

Although pressed by reporters, Christopher would only specify one step he would like to see taken: "a substantial easing" of the closure.

Netanyahu has indicated he would do this and Christopher acknowledged it is quite likely to happen, now that the prime minister and Arafat have talked face-to-face and Netanyahu could understand the difficulties caused by the closure.

Arafat meets Mubarak amid new threats on summit

News agencies

PALESTINIAN Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday amid renewed warnings that the Cairo regional economic summit may be canceled without progress in peace talks.

Egypt has sought to push the talks forward by threatening to cancel the Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference, scheduled for November 12-14. It would be the third such meeting following summits in Morocco and Jordan.

The conference is considered important to the peace process because it will help integrate Israel into the region's economy.

But Mubarak and other Egyptian officials have warned that without success in talks with the Palestinians and the resumption of negotiations with Lebanon and Syria, they would be hard-pressed to justify rewarding Israel with better ties.

They remained pessimistic even after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's first meeting with Arafat on Wednesday.

"The point is not just meeting and shaking hands," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said after the meeting with Arafat. "The point is implementing agreements and that everybody should feel that the peace process has been reactivated."

Arafat met Mubarak, Moussa and Osama Baz, Mubarak's top political adviser, at the Cairo airport for about 45 minutes. Neither Mubarak nor Arafat commented after the meeting.

But Moussa said Arafat was disappointed by the follow-up to his meeting with Netanyahu, who later told his Likud Party members that there would never be a Palestinian state.

"Arafat is surprised that the meeting has not led to something," Moussa said.

Earlier yesterday, while still in Italy, Arafat told an international business forum that peace in the Middle East was still in grave danger despite his meeting with Netanyahu.

Arafat appealed to the European Union for help in supporting the shattered Palestinian economy and reviving the stalled peace process.

"This peace process faces real dangers as a result of the policies of the new Israeli government," said

'I asked Netanyahu to let us work so hunger won't breed extremism'

ROME (AP) - Yasser Arafat says he looked Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in the eyes last week and told him: "Let us [Palestinians] work so that hunger won't be exploited by extremist forces."

In an interview published yesterday in the Rome daily *La Repubblica*, Arafat recalled some of the moments of his ice-breaking meeting three days earlier with Netanyahu.

Arafat was interviewed in Cernobbio, a northern Italian resort, where he was participating in an international conference of business and political leaders.

He said of the Netanyahu meeting: "Frankly, however, I'm still not able to say if it was only a symbolic meeting, of propaganda, or one of substance. We'll see in the next weeks if it really served to get moving again the process to realize the accords made with previous Israeli governments. Accords that, I want to remind all as I did with Netanyahu, are not only bilateral, but international, with the guarantee and sponsorship of the major powers..."

Arafat had other memories of the meeting at the Israeli-Gaza border.

"At one point, while we were discussing diplomatic questions, I looked Netanyahu straight in the eyes and I told him: 'Listen, you always talk about security, but do you know what happened a few days ago?'"

"We arrested a father who had sold his 17-year-old son to those from Hamas, a kid destined to become a kamikaze terrorist. Here's what hunger does, here's what the economic blockade you're imposing on us does. That's why the peace process must go ahead..."

And: "I recalled to Netanyahu that the United States gives away \$28 billion to Mexico so that the Mexican economic disaster won't have harmful influences on America. And he replied: but we don't have \$28 billion to give you. I looked him straight in the eyes again and told him: I'm not asking you for \$28 billion, I'm asking you to let us work so that hunger won't be exploited by extremist forces."

The interviewer reminded Arafat that he recently warned that the intifada could start up again.

"The situation is dramatic and all should know it, they should be advised of it."

"For this reason I say, and I said it to the Israeli premier, that patience has its limits. From a hungry person you can expect anything," Arafat replied.

Asked if he considered Netanyahu an enemy or a partner, Arafat replied: "I respect the choices of the Israelis."

The Palestinian added: "With Netanyahu, we're only at the beginning. I don't know if he will have the same courage" as Rabin and Shimon Peres.

Arafat said he also told Netanyahu that he can't ignore that the West Bank continues to be settled.

"With this land, we must eat. In our land, there are olive trees that go back to the times of the Romans...and they [the settlers] are uprooting them."

Perry calls Mordechai at home to update him on situation in Iraq

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

US SECRETARY of Defense William Perry telephoned his Israeli counterpart Yitzhak Mordechai at home last night to update him on the situation in Iraq and the US military actions there.

Mordechai, who is to visit Washington next month, thanked Perry for the cooperation and good communications between the United States and Israel, and particularly the special links between the Pentagon and the Defense Ministry this past week.

The phone call came after the US gave Turkey a green light to send troops into northern Iraq to enforce a security zone following Iraq's temporary assault on Iranian-backed Kurdish rebels. The US has constantly updated Israel both prior to and after the firing of 44 cruise missiles at Iraqi targets to force Saddam Hussein to withdraw his troops.

Perry said he was looking forward to hosting Mordechai in October and discussing defense issues. The agenda for those talks includes strategic cooperation

between the two countries. Shortly after his appointment as defense minister, Perry invited Mordechai to visit Washington on August 4. But Mordechai, a newcomer to Israeli politics, preferred to delay the visit in order to spend more time in his position.

The Americans are considering the visit very important since Mordechai holds one of the key spots in Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's government. Mordechai has reportedly said he does not intend to bring a shopping list with him for his first meeting with Perry.

Channel 2, quoting American diplomatic sources, reported last night that the Washington administration considers Mordechai one of the most moderate members of Netanyahu's government. Because of this, the station reported, a meeting is being arranged between Mordechai and President Clinton.

But Israeli officials close to the minister dismissed the report, adding that no such meeting is on the agenda.

MORDECHAI

(Continued from Page 1) understandings reached during the secret talks which allowed the meeting to occur. Begin also wanted to know if any secret agreements were reached between the sides.

Netanyahu promised to give Begin and the other ministers the contents of the understanding between the government and the Palestinians regarding the agenda for future negotiations with them, and reiterated that there are no secret agreements between Israel and the Palestinians, according to the cabinet secretary.

Most of the meeting was devoted to talks about ongoing issues, and was termed "quiet" by those in the Prime Minister's Office, especially in light of what took place at the Likud central committee meeting Thursday night.

Netanyahu also reported on the appointment of Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi as acting justice minister. He said Defense Minister Mordechai would fill in for him during his visit to the US, since Foreign Minister David Levy is abroad.

Levy, on a tour of Europe, said on Friday that ministers who believe the government's policy is a catastrophe must draw the necessary conclusions and resign. Levy said the prime minister did not have to take steps to remove

such ministers, but rather that it was the duty of the minister who felt this way to resign. Otherwise, he would be supporting these very policies, Levy said.

Levy stressed that in its guidelines, the government committed itself to recognizing the Oslo Accords and continuing contacts with the PA. He said that stopping the political process would be tantamount to "a return to hell," and stressed that continuing the process is a test of the government's credibility.

In Dublin, Levy said it is clear the government recognized the PA, with which it has contacts, adding, "The government told the Knesset, and through it the entire people, that this is the partner and that it intended to talk with it and to advance the peace process. It did not say this to mislead the Knesset and fool the people. It is true to its message, its guidelines and the platform of the Likud and its partners."

"You can't have the best of both worlds. If anyone has an alternative, let them present it," he said. "What's the alternative, from our standpoint - not meeting with Arafat, abandoning the government's guidelines, abandoning the Likud platform, going to the unknown, starting over, returning to hell, feeling our way for something in the dark?"

IDF hints free use of choppers to fight fire absolves them of any negligence

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE IDF said it was not being reimbursed for sending five CH-53 heavy transport helicopters to fight Friday's fire in the Jerusalem Corridor, even though the choppers are technically for military use.

In a statement, the army hinted that the free service absolved them of any blame in the resulting inquiry into the inadequate attempt to fight the fire, which destroyed 40 structures and burned over 2,000 dunams of forest.

"The IAF helicopters are not intended for putting out fires but for military roles," the IDF Spokesman said.

The army said that regulations call for deploying helicopters in these circumstances in pairs within two hours of any request. But on Friday, the army said, the first pair of Yasur helicopters took off less than an hour after the first call for IDF help was received at 1:24 p.m. All five helicopters available Friday were being put out of the forest fire burning out of control

near Kibbutz Kiryat Anavim by 5 p.m., the army said.

The helicopters took turns fighting the blaze by dropping huge tanks of water onto the flames, in what the army said were particularly difficult conditions, until 7:30 p.m. Friday night.

"Contrary to various reports, no one has paid the air force for the use of the heavy transport helicopters in firefighting missions for the past five years. The air force has therefore been forced to cover the expense," the IDF Spokesman said.

FIRE

(Continued from Page 1)

The Jewish National Fund used planes to spray a white foam containing a fire-proof substance on trees to keep the fire from spreading, apparently for the first time.

Amir said he called the helicopters and planes for help after his initial flyover in a police helicopter, and that the aircraft were the major factor in containing the fire.

A review of the damage yesterday showed that in Kiryat Anavim 14 homes and the guest house

were destroyed, and another 10 buildings were damaged, the police spokesman said yesterday. The number was far less than originally thought.

The kibbutz chicken coops and several warehouses were also destroyed, the spokesman said.

In Beit Nekofa, the lawns in front of several homes were damaged, but the homes themselves were untouched. Several warehouses in the moshav were also damaged, according to the spokesman.

בן דן זמן
With deep sorrow we mourn the loss of
SANDRA PINSKY
(née Bienenfeld)
our dear daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, and aunt who was taken from us on Friday 22 Elul 5756, September 6, 1996
The grieving families
Pinsky, Zilcha, Cohen

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of
Dr. DAVID GILD
The funeral will be held on
Sunday, September 8, 1996 at 3:00 p.m.
at Har Hamenuhot, Givat Shaul.
The family in Israel and in Australia

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dear father and grandfather
HARRY LITT
of Baltimore and Florida,
Halutz of the Fourth Aliya
The Greener and Litt Families
Shiva in Israel at the home of his daughter Trudy Greener,
16/5 Gedud Hershesh Street, Pisgat Ze'ev, Jerusalem.
Tel. 02-583-3855

Was Moshe Dayan A Failure?
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סדרה של חגיגות

Hurricane Fran leaves 21 dead

LORRIE GRANT
RALEIGH, North Carolina

RAIN-swelled rivers sent deadly floodwaters over their banks and hundreds of thousands of battered US East Coast homes remained without electricity on Saturday as residents mopped up after Hurricane Fran.

Rescue officials blamed the storm for at least 21 deaths in the Carolinas, Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

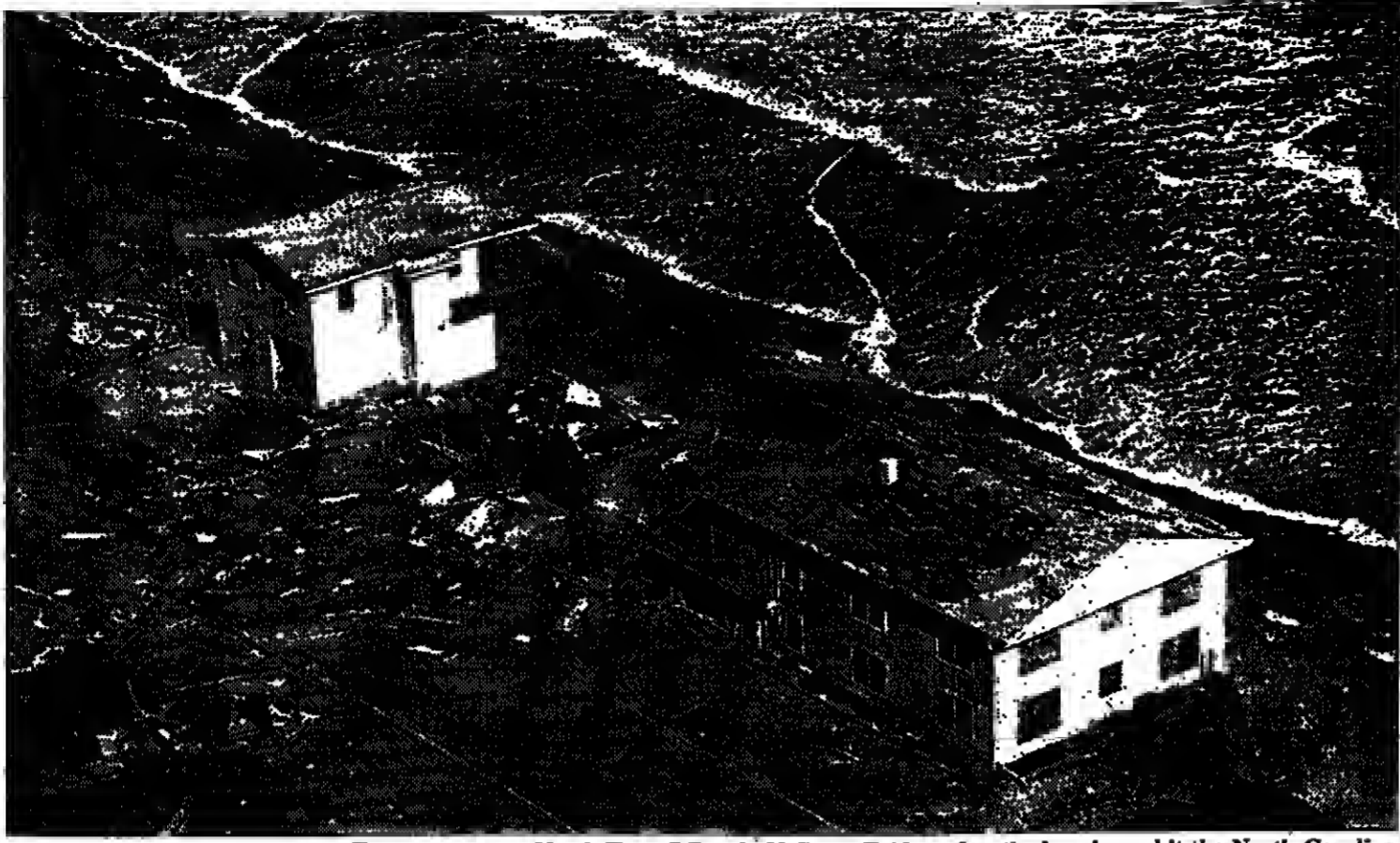
Most of the deaths were caused by flash flooding and up to 37.5 cm of rain rather than Fran's gusts of wind that reached 193 kmh when the hurricane hit late on Thursday.

Powerful tidal surges crumbled buildings along beaches and winds damaged neighborhoods far inland before Fran was downgraded on Friday to a tropical storm as it entered Virginia.

More than one million people in the Carolinas and Virginia remained without power yesterday, officials said.

North Carolina and Virginia were declared major disaster areas by US President Bill Clinton, making victims eligible for federal assistance, although the cost of the damage will not be known for days.

Damage in the Raleigh area alone was estimated at more than \$930 million and officials privately hinted the statewide total could exceed \$1 billion. In Raleigh, 4,000 homes were declared uninhabitable because of severe flooding.



Houses destroyed by Hurricane Fran are seen at North Topsail Beach, N.C., on Friday after the hurricane hit the North Carolina coast Thursday night.

North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt ordered 1,000 National Guardsmen and 1,400 state prisoners to help clean up the damage. "This is the worst storm we've had in a long, long time," he said.

The remnants of Fran caused more misery yesterday when it dumped more than 15 cm of rain on already saturated ground in Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania. North Carolina officials con-

firmed 15 deaths linked to the storm, mostly from traffic accidents and fallen trees. Among the fatalities was one of three Marines swept away by raging floodwaters at the height of the

storm, the Wilmington Morning Star reported. Emergency workers found one of the two Marines who survived clutching the branches of a tree in 1.8 meters of water hours later. (Reuters)

Clinton urges Senate to OK chemical weapons pact

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Bill Clinton called on the US Senate yesterday to ratify a global chemical weapons ban treaty that he said would keep poison gas out of the hands of "rogue states like Iraq."

In his weekly radio address, Clinton said the treaty would dramatically reduce chances that US troops would face chemical weapons in battle and argued it would help keep poisonous materials out of the hands of terrorists.

Clinton's appeal follows the disclosure on Thursday by a presidential advisory panel that as many as 1,100 US troops were exposed to nerve gas from an Iraqi chemical weapons depot in 1991.

"By voting for this treaty, the Senate can help to banish poison gas from the Earth and make America's citizens and soldiers much more secure," Clinton said.

The destruction of stockpiles, including at least 40,000 tons of poison gas in Russia, would help keep a big potential source of chemical weapons out of the hands of terrorists, he said. Trade controls, he added, would deny terrorists easy access to the ingredients they needed to make such weapons.

"It will make life tougher for rogue states like Iraq. Those few nations that refuse to sign will find themselves increasingly isolated," he said.

The Chemical Weapons Convention was signed in January 1993, but has not yet come into force because only 60 of the required 65 countries have ratified it. Among those yet to do so are the United States and Russia, the world's two leading chemical weapons powers.

The treaty bans production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, and it will subject private firms to inspections by an international authority.

The Senate agreed in June to vote on the treaty by September 14, but Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott complained on Friday that Clinton had not provided all the information lawmakers needed to cast their vote.

Fire damages Disneyland Hotel in Paris; 1,500 evacuated

PARIS (AP) - A rude awakening for some, fire heavily damaged portions of a sprawling hotel at Disneyland Paris early yesterday, forcing 1,500 guests to flee, said a spokeswoman for the theme park.

Nine people complained of smoke inhalation and four of them, including two pregnant women, were hospitalized, for observation, said Disney spokeswoman Annie Jan.

No injuries were reported in the blaze, which broke out at 6:45 a.m. inside the 1,000-room Sequoia Lodge, said Disney spokesman Mark Webb.

Firefighters extinguished the fire three hours later.

Most of the 1,500 guests were already awake, getting ready for the park's 8 a.m. opening, Jan said. "They were evacuated in less than 20 minutes."

But about 100 of them, jolted awake by the evacuation, fled with little more than the pajamas on their backs, Jan said. Disney officials allowed them a shopping spree in the park's shops to reclothe themselves, with Mickey picking up the tab.

"The idea was not to console them, but so much the better if it was a consolation," she said. "They can keep the clothes as a souvenir."

Authorities were trying to determine what caused the fire that gutted much of the roof and damaged scores of rooms, Webb said.

The exact extent of the damage, from the blaze and from the water used to put it out, was being assessed.

The guests were lodged at some of the five other Disney hotels surrounding the theme park, as well as at other hotels in the surrounding area, Jan said.

Once resettled, guests spent the day in the park as planned, she said.

(Continued from Page 1) He said the US has three objectives in the coming months: Keeping Israeli-Palestinian talks viable, "avoiding explosion on the Israeli-Lebanese border, and if possible, resuming Israeli-Syrian talks."

During Netanyahu's visit to Washington, he will also meet with Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Secretary of Defense William Perry.

A second US official said the White House session follows an "important week" marked by the Netanyahu-Arafat summit and Thursday's meeting of the countries donating funds for Palestinian development. (Story, Page 2)

The Clinton-Netanyahu visit is a "coincidence," and not a reward for Netanyahu's having met with Arafat on Wednesday, the first official said.

Dole faces hard questions in key state Pennsylvania

PITTSBURGH (Reuters) - Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole brought his sputtering campaign to Pennsylvania yesterday, but faced some tough questions on his policies from audience members.

His visit to Pittsburgh was Dole's third to Pennsylvania in recent weeks. Recent polls show him far behind President Bill Clinton in this state, which has 23 electoral college votes, making it a key election battleground.

Unlike previous such events where carefully selected audience members have asked easy questions, at a session with small business people, Dole faced a tough question about Republican proposals for student aid reductions.

Christiane Vafior, 20, a University of Pittsburgh senior, asked Dole about student loan provisions included in a balanced budget plan pushed by the

Republican-led Congress. Dole never directly answered the question. Instead, Sen. Rick Santorum, a Pennsylvania Republican, angrily denied his party had cut student aid.

When Vafior attempted to follow up, local talk radio host Jim Quinn shouted her down, saying: "You want to be an entrepreneur and you can't find the resources to fund your own education?" The audience applauded.

Vafior later told reporters that Dole should have replied to the question. "I'm putting myself through college, I've worked two jobs every semester," she complained.

At the session, Dole also criticized a federal law letting workers take unpaid leave to care for a new child or sick family member, and he preached a message of lower taxes and less government.

President Bill Clinton calls the

law one of his key achievements and plans to send legislation to Congress to expand the act as well as allow workers to trade overtime for compensatory time to meet family obligations. He has called the law one of his top achievements.

"My view is, why should the federal government be getting into family leave? It ought to be left to the employees or the state or the county and the federal government ought to be out of it," Dole said.

"I believe in compassionate leave if there is a birth or a death or there is something that happens in a family... but I again wonder about the long arm of the government," said Dole, who has long opposed the bill.

A Washington Post/ABC poll released on Friday found Clinton leading Dole 51-37 percent. A New York Times/CBS poll found Clinton up 50-35 percent.

US spacewoman breaks another record

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (Reuters) - Shannon Lucid's mission to the Russian Mir space station entered the record books yesterday as the longest space flight by a woman.

It was a record Lucid was out expecting to break. Her tour of duty aboard the orbiting outpost was supposed to have ended in early August, but shuttle booster problems, scheduling conflicts and Hurricane Fran have delayed her ride home by more than six weeks.

"We had not planned on this [record] happening on this mission and it was sort of a confluence of the elements of the universe that it did," said former astronaut Frank Culbertson, who heads NASA's shuttle-Mir program. "I'm happy that she has it, because I think she's done a terrific job up there."

Lucid has been aboard Mir since March and has already shattered the record for the longest mission by a US space flyer. Her latest record breaks that set by Russian Elena Kondakova, who completed a 169-day stay aboard the station in March 1995.

Kondakova, who is oow training in Houston for a shuttle mission to the Mir station next May, offered Lucid her congratulations.

"I will only be happy for Shannon Lucid," said the 39-year-old engineer. "It again proves that women can work in space as long as men."

Lucid, only the third woman to staff the Mir station, was probably enjoying her time away from the pressures of home, suggested Kondakova.

"Life is easier on board because you don't have to do laundry there, you don't have to cook there, so I think that for a woman being in space is kind of a vacation," she said.

This week NASA had to delay Lucid's homecoming another two days when Hurricane Fran forced shuttle Atlantis off its launch pad. The shuttle is expected to blast-off for Mir on September 16 and dock with the station a few days later.

Lucid, a veteran of four previous shuttle missions, appeared to be taking the latest setback in her stride.

"As long as Atlantis is in good shape, then I'm in good shape," she said. "Whenever they're ready, they'll come get me."

NASA is hoping yesterday marks Lucid's last entry in the record books. She would have to stay in space another 38 weeks to break the human space flight record of 438 days set in 1995 by Russian Valeri Polyakov.

"She's been away a long time," said Culbertson. "I'm sure she's ready for the job to end."

Jewish art collector donates 113 modern treasures to his native Berlin

BERLIN (AP) - In the Berlin of 1936, Heinz Berggruen wisely perceived that Nazi Germany offered a bleak future for a young Jewish journalist.

With 10 marks in his pocket, he emigrated to the United States. After studying at the University of California at Berkeley writing about art for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and returning to Europe as a US Army soldier, Berggruen settled in Paris.

There, he began collecting paintings by Paul Klee, Vincent Van Gogh, Paul Cezanne and Alberto Giacometti.

Now 82, Berggruen has returned to Berlin to donate a collection of 113 modern art treasures that will remain in his native city for the next 10 years. More than half of the pieces are sketches, paintings and sculptures by Picasso.

"Exactly 60 years later I'm back, with more than 10 marks," Berggruen said Friday, at the opening ceremony for the exhibit, "Picasso and His Times."

"Today, a circle closes," said Berggruen, "and I am able to fill a small museum with modern art treasures from this century."

The works are housed in a newly renovated four-story building that is part of the Schloss Charlottenburg complex, not far from where Berggruen was born.

The opening was attended by more than 1,000 people, among them German President Roman Herzog, who praised Berggruen for his cultural contribution to Berlin.

"You decided to bring this collection back to Berlin of all places, when any museum in the world would have been happy to accommodate you," Herzog said. "I know how to appreciate the symbolism of that action. Germany thanks you."

Herzog alluded to Germany's Nazi past, "when barbaric forces considered such art to be degenerate."

"That this circle is being closed by someone who was forced into exile by those same dark forces is a remarkable example of tolerance and humanity," Herzog said.

Berggruen closed another circle by eventually giving up his American citizenship for that of his native Germany. The decision was made during his sojourn in Paris, and he has explained it in interviews by saying he considers himself an apolitical "world citizen" who is comfortable in Europe and the United States, where he has returned for extended

temporary air base facilities. However, apparently due to its feeling that there is a lack of appreciation, and a belief that any US move against Iraq last week would be far short of being a decisive blow against Saddam, Jordan decided to remain on the sidelines during last week's events.

Meanwhile, after the meetings in Washington, Netanyahu will fly to New York, where he will attend the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. The group's anniversary is the ostensible reason for the premier's quick trip to the US.

In a gesture to his Lubavitch campaign supporters, Netanyahu will also visit the grave of the Lubavitcher rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson.

Vice President Al Gore and Republican challenger Jack Kemp are to meet separately with Netanyahu in New York. Both will also be attending the Presidents' Conference dinner.

Netanyahu might also meet with Bob Dole if the Republican presidential candidate is in either of the two cities, but at minimum the two will speak by phone, Ben-Elissar said on Friday. Netanyahu and Dole met in early July in New York.

Mind-reading dogs prepare a welcome

LONDON (Reuters) - A British researcher has proved what dog owners have long suspected - that their pets know when they're coming home from work.

The research showed that 46 percent of dogs started preparing to welcome their owners up to an hour before they got home, even if they worked irregular hours, the *Times* reported last week.

The animals usually become agitated and go to the window to watch for the owner's return.

"Some people might call this weird, but for many pet owners it is perfectly normal," said researcher Rupert Sheldrake, former director of cell biology and biochemistry at Cambridge University.

Some cats and other pets showed the same psychic bond with their owners, said Sheldrake, who collected 1,500 case studies from around the world and carried out a survey of more than 400 pet-owning households in Britain.

'Michael Collins' wins best film award at Venice festival

VENICE (AP) - *Michael Collins*, the story of the short, bloody life of an IRA founder, won the Golden Lion award for best film at the venerable Venice Film Festival yesterday.

The movie's leading man, *Schindler's List* star Liam Neeson, won the Volpi Cup as best actor at the 53rd annual film festival.

The jury named four-year-old Victoire Thivisol as best actress for her role in *Ponette*, directed by Jacques Doillon. Chris Penn won best supporting actor for his role in Abel Ferrara's gangster movie *The Funeral*.

Ponette depicts a little girl's obsession with the death of her mother in a car accident. Answering whistles by people in the audience critical of the choice of her youth - jury president Roman Polanski said the selection was the panel's only unanimous one.

"If you have better proposals, next time you can be on the jury," he said.

Collins, which has not yet

opened, has caused controversy in Britain. Some British politicians contended the film would portray the Irish Republican Army with sympathy and suggested it could touch off more violence in Northern Ireland.

Director Neil Jordan, a 46-year-old Dubliner, defied his Collins as a complex figure capable of violence and peacemaking.

Accepting the award, Jordan praised Warner Bros. for backing a film that "deals with difficult subjects and gives rise to arguments."

"I felt that *Michael Collins* would be a good film, especially for Ireland," he said.

Asked later at a news conference if he thought the movie would help the peace process, he said, "I made it with this hope in mind, because of the history of my country."

Collins took part in the 1916 Easter Rebellion and led the IRA against the British. He signed the 1921 treaty dividing the island between an independent south and the British-controlled Northern Ireland.

He was assassinated at age 31 by extremists outraged over his signing of the treaty.

The movie features Julia Roberts as the woman Collins and his best friend (played by Aidan Quinn) both love. Quinn accepted the award for Neeson, who he said was still hospitalized in Padova, Neeson was operated on last Monday in the nearby city for an intestinal blockage.

After the awards, Quinn and Jordan headed to the hospital to see Neeson.

Jordan's other films include *The Crying Game*, *Mona Lisa* and *Interview With the Vampire*.

Special awards went to Georgian-born director Otar Iosseliani's *Brigands* and *Carla's Song*, by Briton Ken Loach. Mexican Arturo Ripstein's *Profundo Carmesi* won awards for best scenario, screenplay and music.

Dark, political, weighty and mostly European movies dominated the 17 entries for best picture at the festival.



Ketogenic diet offers hope to children with epilepsy

WHEN Danny and Janet Cohen, of Kibbutz Ketura, had to decide between a major brain operation on their two-year-old son to relieve his severe epileptic seizures or putting him through an extremely rigorous diet, they had no doubts, even though their physician was skeptical.

They went to Chicago to start Yotom on the ketogenic diet under the supervision of a neurologist and dietician specially trained in the procedure. The boy has been free for a year of severe seizures — which used to occur over 100 times a day — and now has only a couple of dozen minor muscle jerks daily without losing consciousness.

Now in the kibbutz kindergarten, Yotom is highly disciplined and refuses to eat anything unless he receives permission from his parents. The Cohens, who have two older daughters unaffected by the neurological condition, prepare Yotom's special diet daily, weighing it out to the gram, and send the food off with him to kindergarten. They hope that in another year they will be able to gradually wean him off the diet without his severe seizures returning.

The ketogenic diet, not well known to the Israeli public, is nevertheless a recognized therapy for pediatric epilepsy that does not respond to anti-convulsants and other medications. It has been offered for a few years at a number of local hospitals, including the Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel (SCMCI) in Petah Tikva and Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer.

The diet is high in fat and low in protein and carbohydrates. When followed religiously, ketosis (the burning off of fat for energy) occurs. Fasting, and the ketosis that it produces, have been known, since biblical times, as beneficial for control of seizures.

In modern times, it was discovered by a scientist named Wilder in an attempt to reproduce the metabolic effects of starvation. It was used on patients with seizures during the subsequent decades, but then fell into disuse in the early Fifties, when more effective anti-convulsant medications were developed against epilepsy. It seemed that giving medications, despite side effects (including sedation, cognitive impairment, behavior changes, gum problems and liver and

blood abnormalities), was easier than to carefully control children's diets.

But not every child with severe epileptic seizures is helped by drugs, which can, themselves, be highly toxic. Those who have not may be referred for a major brain operation called the corpus callosotomy; since any brain operation is risky, it was suggested trying the ketogenic diet as a last resort before considering the scalpel.

Dr. Avinoam Shuper, a pediatric neurologist at SCMCI, underwent special training in the diet at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University Hospital, where over 200 children have been treated with the diet under the guidance of pediatric neurologist Dr. John Freeman.

Shuper brought his expertise back with him to Israel in 1990. Since then, about 10 children have been put on the diet, and the success rate has been very promising. Some foreign studies have shown that 20 to 25 percent become seizure-free, and a total of half to three-quarters of children can be helped considerably by the diet.

"It doesn't help all such children," Shuper stresses. "It depends partially on the age you start, the younger, the better the chance of success, and it can begin around one's first birthday. We usually give the diet a chance for two months to see if it has effect."

Doctors, however, can't predict in advance which children will benefit from the diet. One must simply try it. In many cases, some improvement can be noted within the first few days.

NO ONE, says the SCMCI neurologist, is certain how the diet works. A theory is that the ketosis affects the brain. Ketones are the products of fat breakdown, and they circulate in the blood once the patient starts the diet. The body normally burns sugar for energy and can store up to one day's supply. After a one-day's fast, all blood sugar is burned up, causing the body to start burning fat for energy. This results in ketosis, which is maintained by the diet.

Thus the young patient must eat ketogenic foods (fats) and avoid those that are

non-ketogenic (proteins and carbohydrates). Dieticians calculate exactly what the patient may eat: about 75% of the recommended daily allowance (RDA) for a child's age. A typical meal is 55 grams of sweet cream, 28 grams of egg, a 5-gram pickle, 15 grams of strawberries, 17 grams of tomato and 5 grams of oil. For many, breakfast is not confection, but a shake of eggs, cream, oil, saccharine and vanilla. Shuper notes that self-discipline and parental supervision is critical, as brushing one's teeth with a toothpaste or taking an antibiotic syrup containing sugar can defeat the purposes of the diet.

Patients are generally admitted to hospital and put on a complete fast for one to three days; sometimes this is done on an out-patient basis. Then they are introduced to the severe regime of four times as much fat as protein and carbohydrates combined. Liquid intake is often restricted. "It certainly isn't easy. I have heard of US parents who had to put an alarm on their refrigerator to make sure their child didn't sneak in to take forbidden food at night. Imagine how a child feels when he has to turn down a piece of birthday cake in kindergarten."

The diet's components are weighed on a scale and each meal pattern gives the exact number of grams of each food item. As the child's body gets used to burning fat, instead of sugar, for energy, he must be carefully monitored to ensure that he doesn't get dehydrated or suffer from hypoglycemia. Doctors give vitamin and mineral supplements as well; as the diet can temporarily retard growth and may lead to anemia if the child does not get additional iron. In addition, the child must be carefully observed to prevent the formation of kidney stones or the appearance of gout.

Shuper notes that in Israel, it is often hard to get the health funds' cooperation to provide long-term supervision by dieticians. "The insurers need to develop awareness of the problem and the treatment, which requires additional funding on their part." But the diet's effects can be highly dramatic and lasting, and in the long run save the health funds the expense of anti-epilepsy drugs. The Cohen family don't have to be persuaded. Their son is bright and leading a nearly normal life thanks to the ketogenic diet.



It's no child's game: A cellular phone can affect sensitive medical equipment, so pay attention to hospital regulations pertaining to its use. (Moshe Stahl)

Daily exercise for that aching back

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

THE back of the NIS 200 bill should be marked: "This may be dangerous to your health." Depicting a schoolgirl writing with a pencil while her back is bent over the table and her nose is only a few centimeters from the page, it depicts posture that can lead to chronic back problems when she grows up.

Veteran Jerusalem orthopedist Dr. Victor Roth says he was astounded when the bill made its appearance a few years ago.

"With the late premier Levi Eshkol on the other side, the highest-denominated bill in the country, it's shameful," he declares. "But it's typical of the school system's disregard for the prevention of back trouble, such as by giving pupils chairs and desks unsuited to them. People should be taught to exercise and strengthen their back and abdominal muscles and to raise heavy objects properly so as not to cause themselves harm."

About 80 percent of the population will at some time in their lives suffer from a bout of back pain. Of these, about a fifth will have to cope with chronic back pain that returns when they least expect it, Roth says. Some patients' back pain he is able to cure merely by sending them for new glasses. Nearsighted without realizing it, they bend over too close to the table and strain their back muscles.

A fortunate meeting between the British-born Roth and a 54-year-old recent immigrant from New York has produced a device meant for exercising and resting the back and abdominal muscles to relieve or even eliminate back pain. Called the Ortho Bench, it was invented by Gedalia (Gary) Lichtenstein, who at the age of 12 jumped backwards off a diving board into a swimming pool and suffered back problems for several years.

"My parents took me to orthopedists in several hospitals, but none of them was able to help me," says Lichtenstein, who studied accounting and vocational guidance at New York University.

Although physicians were unable to help him, paraprofessionals who stressed the strengthening of the back-related muscles did, and Lichtenstein devoted his time to inventing a bench based on these principles that would encourage patients to exercise specific muscles. Asking general practitioners for a good orthopedist in Jerusalem to consult, he was advised to see Roth, who agreed to help him on a consultant basis.

"I was very skeptical at first, because there is no device one can use to cure all back pain. But I realized that Gedalia's ideas to promote extension exercises were a way of implementing the recommendations I had been giving patients for years. I had been telling them to put their mattress on the floor and a chair under their legs. This 90-90 position (thighs at



A schoolgirl's bad posture adorns the back of a NIS 200 bill.

a 90-degree angle to the hips and lower legs at a 90-degree angle to the thighs) is the best way to rest the back," Roth notes.

"I also suggested that they put a very large pillow under the back of their knees, but a suitable size was not easy to find."

COMBINING Lichtenstein's mechanical talents with Roth's orthopedic expertise, the two developed the Ortho Bench, which now has a worldwide patent pending. Comprising a 60-centimeter-wide cushioned top, an extendable two-arm frame and a strap to hold the legs, it is manufactured in Jerusalem's Beit Yisrael quarter from heavy-duty steel so that it won't topple over.

Between two of the angled legs is a cushioned bar and metal grip for resting the knees at a proper angle or holding the legs during back exercises. Lichtenstein demonstrates one of the most effective workouts: he lies on his stomach, his waist reaching the end of the bench and his legs tucked into a strap that holds them in place. Then he lowers his head and chest to the floor several times a minute.

"The Ortho Bench is not a gimmick to be sold in sports-supply stores. It is available only after patients undergo a comprehensive examination and diagnosis by an orthopedist, and the exercises and the actual measurements of the device must be customized to the patient's particular problem," Roth stresses.

He is currently training fellow Jerusalem orthopedists in the use of the Ortho Bench and has launched clinical trials here as well as in Hungary. Israelis with back problems are invited to participate in the local clinical trials. Roth has used the device successfully on some of his patients. "Although its effectiveness hasn't yet been proven by clinical trials, I don't hesitate to prescribe it to certain patients, as it is non-invasive and based on the principles I have always used in recommending back exercises," Roth explains.

"People with back problems have to exercise daily. If they give up quickly, it will be of no use. Many people think their back problem is due to breakdown of

spinal disks, but this is true only in a minority of cases. The most common reason is that the back and abdominal muscles are not strong enough to keep the spine in the proper position."

Back pain can be eased with a variety of non-conventional treatments, including Alexander and Feldenkreis techniques, acupuncture, reflexology, shiatsu and chiropractic. But Roth is adamant that patients should seek these out only after an orthopedic specialist carries out a full examination and diagnosis of his condition. There are over 150 different types of backache. Going to a physician who himself has studied some of these techniques is the best bet, he adds.

There isn't enough of an emphasis on rest in the acute stage of back pain, especially in the Israel Defense Forces, says Roth. "I saw in the army that soldiers complaining of back pain would be given a few muscle-relaxant pills and told to go back to work. Instead they should be prescribed rest, and then exercise in the recovery and rehabilitation stages."

If overweight is a contributory factor, it should be dealt with as well. The bench is not meant for the minority of patients suffering from neurological conditions as well as back pain. In addition, patients over 60 must be very carefully handled — as heart disease, rheumatic disorders and osteoporosis could affect treatment for back pain. But even these, says Roth, could be helped by exercising under a doctor's supervision using the Ortho Bench.

Lichtenstein is selling the bench for NIS 400 to NIS 1,200, depending on the material from which it is made, features (such as the ability to fold up compactly) and materials (the more expensive ones make it look like a fashionable piece of furniture). Unfortunately, the health funds do not subsidize the sale of such equipment, even though it is prescribed by a doctor and needed for medical treatment.

Anyone who wants to apply for participation in clinical trials or wants a list of orthopedists who can prescribe the Ortho Bench should contact Gedalia Lichtenstein at (02) 532-4175 or fax him at (02) 532-5008.

The risks of aspirin

HEALTH SCAN

POST HEALTH REPORTER

LARGE numbers of Russian immigrant children are being given aspirin instead of paracetamol by their parents for fever reduction and pain — even though aspirin can cause Reye's syndrome and possible severe liver damage, wasting of fat in the internal organs and harm to the tissue covering the brain. This is reported by Dr. Liubov Ben-Noun, of the department of family medicine at Ben-Gurion University's health sciences faculty.

Writing in *Harefuah* a publication of the Israel Medical Association, the Russian-born doctor surveyed 209 children who arrived from the CIS between 1991 and 1995 and have been treated in community health-fund clinics.

When they lived in Russia, three-quarters of the parents gave their children aspirin, as this was the accepted drug for fever and pain, and pharmacology books didn't even mention the possible risk of aspirin to children. Many of the immigrants brought aspirin with them and continued to give them this drug here.

Ben-Noun notes that during his study, not a single case of Reye's syndrome was reported in the Beersheba area; it is regarded as rare. But even so, since aspirin is freely available over the counter in pharmacies, pediatricians should be alert and impress upon parents that paracetamol is preferable to aspirin for children.

The syndrome was first described by Dr. R.D.K. Reye in 1963, and is often fatal. If affects youngsters up to the age of 18, but is more common in those aged five to 15. There are one to 2.5 cases per 100,000 children. Whether a child is affected depends on genetic, environmental and other factors, including whether they previously suffered from viral diseases such as influenza and chicken pox.

WELL-DONE EMERGENCIES Most of the public are happy with the way government hospital emergency rooms function, according to a survey broadcast recently on K11 Yisrael.

According to the poll, 66.2 percent of those who went to an emergency room during the past six months felt they were in good hands. Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi expressed satisfaction with the results of the poll, conducted by Stovakim-Panorama, despite budgetary pressures in the health system.

The average rating given to the medical staff for their professionalism was 8 out of 10; for the queue 6.8; the nurses' attitudes towards the patient 7.8; and the doctors' attitudes towards the patient 8.5. The average general rating of emergency rooms was 8.1. The hospitals received the highest ratings of five government institutions surveyed so far: the Interior Ministry, the Licensing Bureau, the Employment Service and the Execution Office.

SIDS & SMOKING Parents who smoke are responsible for 60 percent of the sudden-infant-death-syndrome (SIDS, or cot death) cases in Britain, according to a recent study published in the *British Medical Journal*. The article said the majority of cot deaths could be prevented if pregnant women and their babies weren't exposed to smoke.

The two-year retrospective study at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Bristol questioned the parents of 195 babies who died of SIDS, and compared the adults' habits with those whose children were healthy. Sixty-two percent of the women whose babies died were smokers, compared to only 25 percent of those whose babies lived. Fathers' smoking was also an important factor in SIDS, the researchers said.

Cell phones can create hospital havoc

Think the claim that cellular phones' magnetic fields disturb medical equipment is nonsense and would like to know the real reason for barring their use in hospitals: maybe it's only to frighten visitors into using pay phones on the premises. There is so much other equipment in the hospital that generates strong magnetic fields such as computers, TV, radio, fax, etc. Surely these would interfere with each other just as strongly. Prof. M. L. Haifa.

Dr. David Adler, an engineer and director of the biomedical engineering department of Hadassah-University Hospitals in Ein Kerem and Mt. Scopus, Jerusalem, comments:

There are real reasons for restricting use of mobile communications equipment in hospitals: you are wrong that it is aimed at promoting use of public phones. Our staff conducted intensive studies in the two hospitals, using special equipment, to determine the effects of magnetic fields from cellular phones, walkie-talkies and other electronic devices on medical equipment. As a result of our findings, we issued selective, rather than comprehensive, restrictions on use of mobile telecommunication equipment. We don't want to inconvenience

Rx FOR READERS POST HEALTH REPORTER

patients, staffers and visitors. Patients themselves may use cellular phones but only in certain areas. The prohibition is in effect only in or near operating theaters, intensive-care units, recovery rooms and other places where very sensitive life-support equipment is functioning. The Health Ministry issued general instructions and each institution sets the details for itself.

According to our studies, portable transmitters such as those used by security personnel disturb vital equipment the most; these should not come within five meters of sensitive life-support equipment. But cellular phones do as well and must be kept at least a meter away. Computers and TV sets emit magnetic fields from the back, but the effects are negligible within short distances from them; faxes and radios emit very little. However, since these devices stay in one place, one can arrange them so they do not get too close to vital equipment or interfere with each other. Cellular phones, by their very nature, can go anywhere. Thus we have signs barring use of mobile telecommunication devices in certain areas, and the nurses enforce the rules.

By the way, airlines instruct passengers not to use cellular phones and laptop computers during flights because they can interfere with the automatic pilot and other sensitive devices. In the past, such use has caused near-accidents.

Can cracking ice in your mouth harm your teeth? G.B., Kiryat Haifa.

Prof. H. S.-C. of the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine comments:

Teeth are meant solely for chewing food — not for opening bottle caps, cracking walnuts or cracking ice. Dentists often have to repair damage to teeth in patients who used teeth instead of tools. Tooth enamel is the hardest substance in the body, but it shouldn't be abused.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page. Write Rx For Readers, c/o Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, fax to 02-5389527 or e-mail to justic@post.co.il, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

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Dissent without threats

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's visit to the United States this week may provide him with some relaxation, given the stormy session of the Likud central committee last week. The public was treated to the spectacle of the prime minister threatening to fire ministers who opposed the government line, and retorts from ministers Begin and Sharon almost daring him to do so.

While it is fruitless and antidemocratic to attempt to quash all dissent within a political party, it is reasonable to demand some level of acquiescence, if not support, for basic government policies from government ministers. The prime minister and his supporters rightfully state that the meeting with Yasser Arafat is an inevitable component of the government's commitment to abide by signed agreements and to continue the peace process.

As the Palestinians suffering under the thugery of Arafat's numerous security services are discovering, the Palestinians' leadership is far from ideal, either for them or for Israel. Before Oslo, it was perhaps possible to imagine an alternative Palestinian leadership that would have been more democratic, more moderate, and more representative of local Palestinian interests. But the opportunity for that is gone, at least for now.

While it might be valid to claim that Netanyahu could have extracted more concessions from the Palestinians before meeting with Arafat, the dissenting ministers have not presented any alternative to meeting with the Palestinian Authority head at some point. Are they suggesting that Israel should not negotiate with the Palestinians, or that it is possible to negotiate with the Palestinians without speaking directly with Arafat? Either suggestion seems removed from reality, whether one likes that reality or not.

The most important point Netanyahu made in response to his critics on the right is that the Oslo process left all the major elements of the

conflict to be negotiated in the future — in other words, that the meeting with Arafat simply recognized who Israel must negotiate with, while leaving the nature of a final-status agreement open.

On that score, he clearly rejected the idea of a Palestinian state, while showing that there really is not much difference between the former government's nascent concept of a Palestinian "state" with severely truncated sovereignty and his own concept of maximum autonomy consistent with Israel's security needs.

But the prime minister, while insisting on discipline, should not ignore the message of his party's right wing, even if it should have been delivered in a less confrontational fashion. That message is that Israel must not forget and must continue to assert its moral, legal, and historic claims to Judea and Samaria.

There is a world of difference between an Israel that acts as if it were an illegal occupier negotiating merely over security requirements, and an Israel that unapologetically asserts its rock-solid claims to territory, some of which it might be willing to concede for the sake of peace.

Both the Palestinians and the Right understand that if Israel is simply the "occupier" of Judea and Samaria, then it is simply the "occupier" of Tel Aviv, as well. If Gush Etzion is "Arab" territory, why not Herzliya? What the Right should also understand, however, is that the fact that Israel has a rightful claim to territory does not invalidate territorial compromise as a means to achieving lasting peace with its neighbors.

The Likud's ideological wing has as much right as any other sector to speak out on issues affecting the future of the nation. In the end, however, the government should be allowed to move forward in a way that reflects the mandate of the voters, without facing constant threats of resignations and other forms of intimidation from its own ministers.

Fighting fire

THIS investigation into Friday's fire in the Jerusalem Corridor should not take too long. The fundamental question facing the investigators is whether the findings of the Lapidot Commission, which investigated last year's Jerusalem Corridor blaze, have been implemented, and if not, why not.

The scenes of this weekend's fire were reminiscent of last year's horrific destruction of 20,000 dunams of natural forest. So too was the sight of too few firefighters and equipment attempting to tackle the conflagration.

According to the Lapidot Commission's report, Israel's Fire Service is "very far from satisfactory" and is "not equipped to handle large and extensive fires." The report found that the country has only a quarter to a third the number of firefighters that it needs. Moreover, the report said, the Fire Service lacks sufficient fire-fighting equipment, in some places the equipment it does have is outdated, and that in general, the service is not properly prepared to deal with forest fires.

Since the report was presented to and accepted by the Interior Ministry in November of last year, some NIS 20 million has been added to the

Fire Service's budget to buy new equipment and improve existing facilities, and some 70 new firefighters have been employed.

Throwing money at a problem, however, does not always solve it. Aside from the personnel shortages, which cannot be immediately overcome — a would-be firefighter spends a year of hands-on training at a fire station before attending the basic fire-fighting course at the Fire and Rescue School in Rishon LeZion — the Lapidot Commission also criticized the Fire Service's organization, methodology and deployment.

It is clear that the best way to fight forest fires is from the air, with helicopters and planes dousing water on the fire below. Even with its new trucks, as Deputy National Fire Chief Shimon Ben-Ner pointed out, the firefighters were unable to reach fires in the middle of the forest. Accordingly, army helicopters were called on to drop water and chemicals on the blaze, but questions remain as to whether they were summoned as quickly as they should have been. Large question marks also remain as to whether, given the experience of last year's fire, the Jerusalem-area fire department utilized whatever resources they have in the best possible manner.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FREEDOM OF RELIGION
Sir, — I am pleased that Yasser Arafat has brought the Temple Mount in Jerusalem to the world's attention as one of the religious sites in the city of Jerusalem where he believes that he has influence.

Since freedom of religion is one of the bulwarks of American democracy, I am sure that all Americans, from President Clinton down, would be appalled to hear about the treatment that I received at the hands of the Moslem authorities in charge of the Temple Mount on my few visits to this holy site.

If I understand correctly, the Temple Mount is the third most important religious site in Islam, after Mecca and Medina. Despite this fact, the Moslem authorities allow Jews to visit the Temple Mount only during a very small window of the day, never more than 90 minutes. Worse than that, the Moslem authorities do not allow the Jews to pray on the Temple Mount, or even to read from the Book of Psalms.

This is in total contrast to the minor restrictions placed on Christians and a total lack of restrictions placed on Moslems who wish to visit the Temple Mount. Wherever I walked, the Moslem police stayed within a few feet of me, intimidating me every step of the way. I, as any American, find this denial of religious freedom unacceptable.

I look forward to Arafat's immediate condemnation and elimination of this intimidating behavior to confirm that he appreciates the freedom of religion that we Americans take for granted, and that equal access to the religious sites is an integral part of his political program. Otherwise, no American would accept that he has any rights to any political position east or west of the Jordan River.

JOEL ROBINSON
Jerusalem (Boston).

FIASCO
Sir, — The refusal of the Arabs to honor Arafat's call to come to Friday prayers in their masses, followed by an even greater fiasco at Christian services in Jerusalem on Sunday, may very well be watershed events. For while the Arabs of the West Bank were barred from Jerusalem, Israeli Arabs and Jerusalemites had unrestricted access. On a regular Friday, there are many chartered buses bringing Arabs from around Israel to Jerusalem. On August 30, they voted against Arafat with their feet and stayed home. Jerusalem Arabs stayed home even after the poor turnout was public knowledge and the weekly sermon was delayed an hour in the hopes that more would turn up.

I asked Sa'eb Erekat about it and he admitted that he was disappointed with the Israeli Arabs.

Kfar Sava. DR. AARON LERNER

THE TEL AVIV-JERUSALEM HIGHWAY
Sir, — As a regular driver from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, I am amazed by the number of heavy lorries crawling up to the capital at peak times, effectively reducing large sections of this already inadequate road to just one lane.

Could some law not be introduced whereby such slow-moving vehicles can only use this route during off-peak times, such as the middle of the night? Whilst I appreciate that commercial considerations often make this impossible (and who would enforce it? — the police on one of the busiest roads in the country are noticeable by their absence), the situation and potential danger are surely going to get much worse before they get any better.

JONATHAN GOLDMAN
Tel Aviv.

THE WAR OF THE MESSIAHS
Sir, — I refer to Marilyn Henry's article of August 30, "The war of the messiahs heats up." I think Rabbi Butman put it best when he called this an "old story." While the internal debate within Habad regarding whether or not to publicly say that the Lubavitcher Rebbe is the moshiach cannot be denied, the crux of the issue remains unchanged.

If anyone is engaging in an "intense state of denial," as Rabbi Posner states, it is those theologians such as Messrs. Berger and Nadler whose lack of familiarity with various Torah sources on the subject set off within them warning bells blaring "Jewish Messianic Christianity." That is where Rabbi Soloveitchik came in. Granted, he did not categorically endorse the belief that the Rebbe is moshiach. However, he did invalidate out-of-hand the assertion that such a belief is un-Jewish and without firm basis in Halacha and Torah tradition.

Regrettably, there are some within the ranks of Habad determined to fight the moshiach publicity-identity campaign tooth and nail to the point of even refuting and denying the Rebbe's own words and actions on the subject. As to Ms. Henry's figure that people who support coming out and saying the Rebbe is moshiach amounts to 20% of the hassidim, it sounds to me that she has been speaking to some of Shimon Peres's pollsters. Here in Israel, at least, if anything, the exact opposite is true.

In the words of the Rebbe upon his accession to the leadership of Habad, may we soon "seek and be together with the Rebbe, down here in a physical body and within our reach, and he will redeem us."

MICHAEL DOBRI
Safed.



Kooks and Waiters

GO to virtually any wedding in Israel today, from the most secular to the most Hassidic, and you will most likely hear the crowd break into the song "Moshiach, Moshiach."

Once the last declaration of faith of the martyred millions of the Holocaust, it has become so popular that it can rightly be counted among the theme songs of modern Israel.

And yet when the music has stopped and the fervor subsides, we may rightly ask: Do we really want the messiah to come?

Some people feel that the messianic age is already upon us. After all, messianic tasks traditionally include the ingathering of the exiles, the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the cessation of war.

With some reservations about the last of these, many people would argue that these once-impossible ideals have already begun to be fulfilled, and that the modern State of Israel is the practical embodiment of the messianic promise.

Such people won't tell you that the messiah will ride into Jerusalem on a white donkey; they will explain that the messiah — or at least his advance troops — rode in on tanks in June 1967 when the Old City was reclaimed. The day the walls were breached and the capital reclaimed, they will say, was the day the messianic age began.

Then there are those who cling with fierce determination to the belief that the messiah is nowhere in sight, that modern Israel with its burgeoning American complex and Yom Kippur-on-the-beach scene is light years away from what Israel's golden age ought to look like.

These people remain convinced that rather than the messiah being the outgrowth and result of what Israel becomes, Israel will only take on its rightful character when the messiah comes.

One could call this "the messiah defense," and many of these people hide behind it to justify their continued existence in the Diaspora — or, if they already live here, their non-identification with the state and its various outgrowths like the IDF, the Knesset, and the state school system.

STEWART WEISS

They dismiss the miraculous rebirth of Israel and the Jewish people's return to its ancient homeland as a freak of history unrelated to God's guiding hand.

The real age of miracles, they proclaim, can only occur after the messiah comes, and not before. What we're seeing now is an illusion, a facade sent to test our faith and not the real thing.

A friend of mine who is a tour guide told me about a group of observant Jews from South America he recently guided on a

heavy dose of human participation.

The Red Sea, for example, didn't split until one Jew took his courage in both hands and jumped into the water, thus demonstrating his faith that the miracle would occur.

The story is told of a pious Jew from Europe who came to Palestine shortly after World War I and demanded an audience with Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, our first Ashkenazi chief rabbi.

Ushered into the chief rabbi's office, the man proceeded to berate him about the woeful state of religious affairs in the Holy Land and sharply criticized him for being part of the "treife medine," for being associated with a Jewish establishment that wasn't fully run according to Torah principles.

Rabbi Kook was not one to be bullied. He stood up and stared the man down.

"Had you come here as I did, he told the European Jew, and brought along hundreds of thousands like yourself, and bad you started to build this country, today you would have precisely the kind of Israel you desire."

"But you didn't come. You stayed home and waited for other Jews to come and do the work. Israel reflects the values of its builders, and now it must struggle that much harder to find its religious character."

"I prefer to be a part, not apart, from the struggle," Kook concluded. "So don't come and complain, come and build!"

In the kitchen of life, Kooks may not always outnumber Waiters, but they will always outrank them.

Those who believe that sitting and waiting in a far-off land is the best way to advance the cause of Judaism and usher in the messianic age might do well to reflect on the Rabbi Kooks in our history — and those who follow in their footsteps today — who labored mightily to pry open the gates of redemption, so that when the messiah finally arrives he will have no trouble getting in.

Do we really desire the coming of the messiah? The answer isn't clear

visit here. At the end of their stay, he innocently asked, "Nu, friends, when are you coming here to live?"

One member of the group politely answered for the rest. "We are waiting for Moshiach," he said. "When he comes, we'll come, too."

My friend smiled and drew them into a circle. In a husky voice he told the group, "I have a secret to share with you, my good friends. When Moshiach comes, we won't need you! Now is the time for you to accomplish something extraordinary, to help bring Moshiach to the world."

"So quit waiting — come now!"

NO ONE in Israel or outside it — and especially no one who drives a car here — would argue that this country is a perfect place, that it couldn't use some improvements of messianic proportions in a whole variety of areas.

But this is the real question: Will we arrive at that mystical mountaintop by just waiting for those miracles we so want to happen, or can we help the hand of history to create them? In other words, do we sit back, or do we make it happen?

Any Torah scholar will tell you: that biblical miracles, while they clearly emanated from God, always included a

and members of parliament at IDF checkpoints, halting the final-status negotiations, renewing large-scale settlement activity.

All of this reinforces the Palestinians' sense that the accords with Israel mean nothing. Meanwhile, the rest of the world wonders: what could the point be? Why does the government of Israel do everything to humiliate its only partner in the peace?

NETANYAHU'S intentions have been based on two false assumptions: first, that the more Arafat is weakened, the more he will have to succumb to our demands; and second, that if we do manage to provoke him, he will get angry, break off the negotiations, and we will get out of the Oslo Accords without any of the blame.

But Arafat is no David Levy. He won't throw a temper tantrum and proclaim the discontinuation of the peace talks just because of insults or humiliations. However, neither will he merely be Netanyahu's servant.

If the situation does deteriorate into a second Intifada, it will not be directed against Arafat, as current wisdom would have it. On the contrary, Arafat will take up its helm, leading and directing it. If that were to happen, Arafat would once again be at his best.

The Palestinian leader has not been "weakened," as commentators write daily. Certainly there is a plethora of Palestinian criticism directed against him, much of it justified; but not one of his critics would ever dream of seeing him replaced.

Arafat is the universally acknowledged leader of the Palestinian people. He is a man of considerable virtues and considerable shortcomings. Those who know him well recognize both. But no one can create a national movement out of thin air, lead it through 35 years of crisis, command an "armed struggle," head a complex government, survive dozens of assassination attempts, and create a state-in-the-making under ghastly conditions, only to allow amateurs like Netanyahu and Gold to lead him by the nose.

Wednesday's historic meeting between Netanyahu and Arafat offers hope that our prime minister may finally be getting the idea.

The writer heads Peace Bloc.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



When a three-year-old boy fell into the primate exhibit at the zoo in Brookfield, Illinois, everyone froze in horror. But the boy, who plunged 5.5 meters onto a concrete floor, was saved when one of the seven gorillas in the cage lifted him, cradled him, and, keeping the other apes away, gently placed him by a door for the paramedics to tend to him. The eight-year-old female gorilla, named Binti Jua, is credited with saving the life of the boy, who suffered critical head injuries but recovered quickly in hospital and was released four days later.

Strong leader

URI AVNERI

A week before the summit meeting between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority chairman met with 50 leading journalists from Israel. I had initiated this meeting out of growing fear that Palestinian rage could not be contained much longer. I wanted the shapers of Israeli public opinion to get a face-to-face impression of the man.

In the course of the discussion, a reporter asked Arafat if he was depressed by the way things seemed to be going. "Never," he responded. "Ask Uri Avneri if I was depressed in Beirut."

When I first met the Palestinian leader in besieged Beirut, he was certain that his days were numbered. The IDF was planning a final assault on his encampment, and it was common knowledge that Ariel Sharon was determined to have him killed the moment he was captured.

But Arafat was at his best — cheery, full of ideas, exuding self-confidence. He survived impossible conditions for 81 days, and in the end he managed to extricate his entire army with honor.

On the eve of Israeli elections, Arafat and I had occasion to speak of Shimon Peres. "What sets you apart from him," I told Arafat, "is that the more conditions deteriorate, the better you get."

It is easy to misjudge Yasser Arafat. His outward appearance is quite misleading. It is tempting to treat the man with ridicule, but many have learned over the years that this is a dangerous error. Now, Netanyahu and his associates are being schooled in this basic fact.

Netanyahu's government, with the arrogance of utter ignorance, has engaged in daily humiliations of Arafat and the Palestinians: Hebron, the unceasing closure, destroying the social center in the heart of the Moslem Quarter, refusing to let Arafat fly his helicopter from Gaza to Ramallah, humiliating Arafat's ministers

Arafat is no Levy. He won't throw a temper tantrum and stop the peace talks just because of insults

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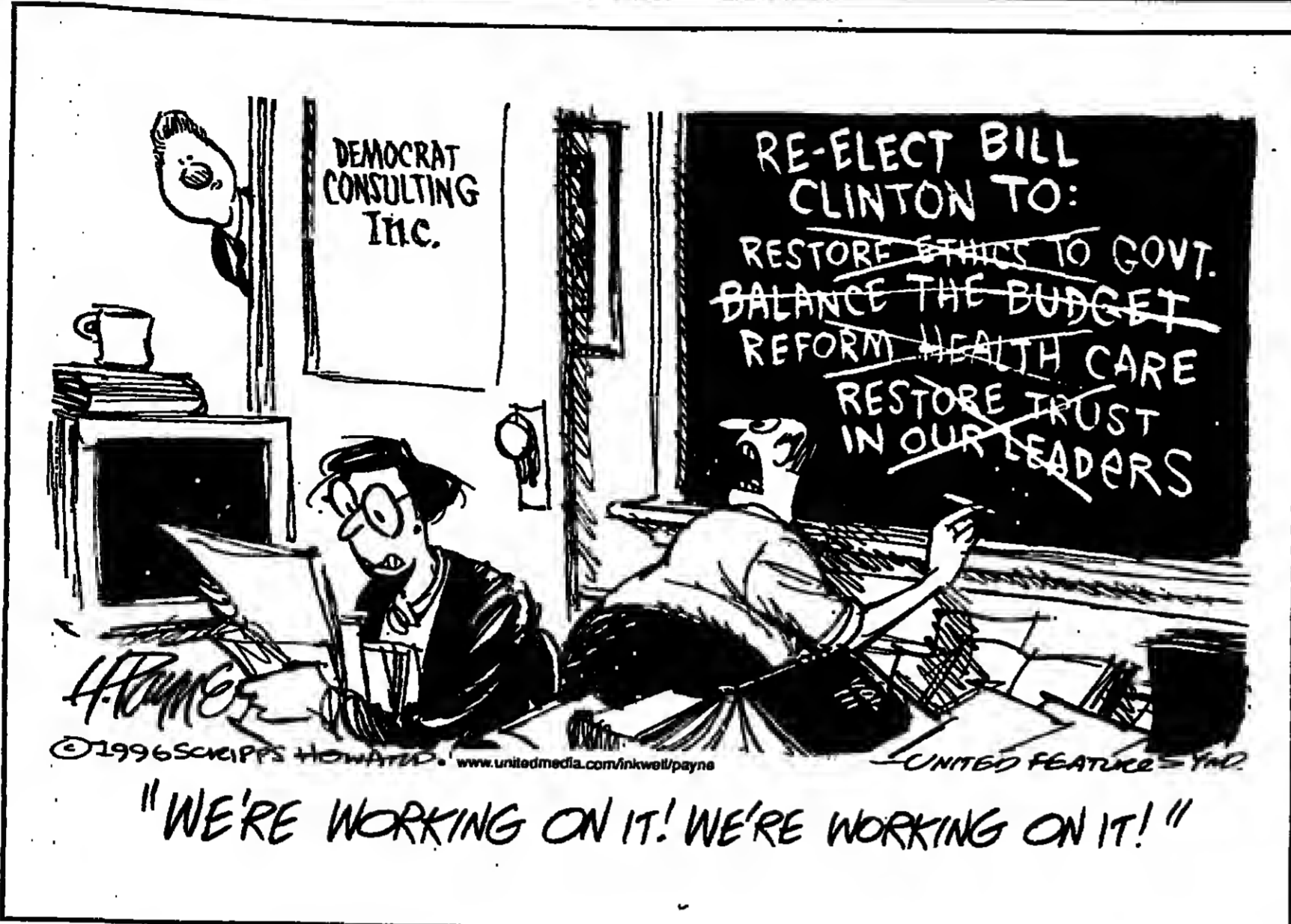
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AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, September 8, 1996

Strong leader
URI AVNERY

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When I first met the Palestinian leader in besieged Beirut, he seemed that his days were numbered. The IDF was planning a final assault on his enclave, and it was common knowledge that Ariel Sharon was determined to have him killed the moment he was captured.
But Arafat was at his best, full of ideas, exuding confidence. He survived impossible conditions for 45 days at the end he managed to save his entire army with honor.
On the eve of Israeli elections, Arafat and I had occasion to speak of Shimon Peres. "I sets you apart from him," Arafat said. "The more Peres's detractors, the better."
It is easy to understand Arafat. He has a strong sense of honor. He is a man of the world who has seen many things. He has a sense of humor that is infectious. Now, Netanyahu and his allies are trying to destroy his basic trust.



Casey closed

'92 pro-life debate surfaces in '96

BY MICHAEL CROWLEY

All summer long, the story of former Pennsylvania Governor Bob Casey danced around the outskirts of the presidential campaign. You'll recall that Casey, a Democrat, was denied a speaking slot at his party's 1992 convention, allegedly, as *The New York Times* reported as recently as Aug. 25, "because of his opposition to abortion rights." Now, as both parties bid up the stakes in the tolerance wars, the GOP has been using the purported muzzling of Casey to bludgeon the Democrats — and getting a free pass from the news media. "This is not like the Democratic convention in 1992, where the Democratic governor of Pennsylvania, one of the biggest states in the nation, was prevented from speaking because he's pro-life," Republican National Committee Chairman Haley Barbour said of his party's tightly controlled show in San Diego.

Since leaving office in 1995, Casey himself has rehearsed the tale ad nauseam. "The raging national debate about tolerance on the issue of abortion was ignited," Casey wrote in the Aug. 23 *Wall Street Journal*, when "the party denied me... the right to speak because I am pro-life and planned to say so from the podium." In Chicago, Casey delivered an impassioned pro-life speech Monday, railing against his party's imposed conformity.
But the story is not so simple. According to those who actually doled out the 1992 convention speaking slots, Casey was denied a turn for one simple reason: his refusal to endorse the Clinton-Gore ticket. "It's just not factual!" stammers James Carville, apoplectic over Casey's claims. "You'd have to be idiotic to give a speaking role to a person who hadn't even endorsed you." "Why are you doing this to me?" moans Paul Begala, who, with Carville, managed two Casey campaigns before joining Clinton's team in 1992. "I love Bob Casey, but my understanding was that the dispute was not about his right-to-life views, it was about the Clinton-Gore ticket."

The man best able to explain the decision was the late Ron Brown. He addressed the topic during a roundtable discussion of Clinton campaign veterans. He explained: "We decided the convention would be totally geared towards the general election campaign, towards promoting our nominee and that everybody who had the microphone would have endorsed our nominee.

That was a rule, everybody understood it, from Jesse Jackson to Jerry Brown.... The press reported incorrectly that Casey was denied access to the microphone because he was not pro-choice. He was denied access to the microphone because he had not endorsed Bill Clinton. I believe that Gov. Casey knew that. I had made it clear to everybody. And yet it still got played as if it had to do with some ideological split. It had nothing to do with that."

'The press reported incorrectly that Casey was denied access to the microphone because he was not pro-choice. He was denied access to the microphone because he had not endorsed Bill Clinton. I believe that Gov. Casey knew that. I had made it clear to everybody. And yet it still got played as if it had to do with some ideological split. It had nothing to do with that.'

-Ron Brown

Indeed, the more one examines the version offered by the Democratic hacks, the more compelling it seems. Casey's claims to a speaking slot were tenuous from the outset. He was about to retire from politics, and convention speeches are usually allotted to those running for re-election. "It wasn't like he was going to be on there and they said, 'Well, you're off now,' or something," Carville says. Besides, Casey repeatedly bashed Clinton during the primaries, calling Clinton's success "very tragic." Less than three months before the '92 convention, he urged, "Convention rules provide for the selection of an alternative candidate. Let's pick a winner." Why would Clinton invite him to speak?
Casey doesn't dispute that he refused to endorse Clinton. Instead, he notes that Jerry

Brown and his sister, Kathleen, also did not, yet were both allowed to speak. Theirs, however, were special cases: Jerry Brown had won a few hundred delegates in the primaries, and under convention rules was allowed to speak because his name was placed in nomination. Kathleen Brown, then a candidate for governor of California, was one of the party's highest-profile women (and, though she didn't endorse Clinton, she didn't endorse her own brother, either). Even a reluctant Jesse Jackson was coaxed into backing Clinton in exchange for his speaking slot. Furthermore, a slew of pro-life Democrats, including Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, Sens. John Breaux and Howell Heflin, and five governors, did address the delegates in 1992. Though the speakers didn't dwell on abortion, party officials say they would have been free to mention the issue.

Casey, for his part, offers little evidence for his version beyond his unswayable conviction that the party is out to get him. "I'm sure they were chagrined that I didn't endorse the ticket," he says. "But the overriding reason was that I was going to go up there and make the pro-life case." As he tells it, on July 2, 1992, he wrote to Ron Brown, then the party chairman, and on July 13 to Ann Richards, the chairwoman of the delegation, asking to give a pro-life speech at the convention. He never heard from either one.
Casey also sought to speak against the platform when it was presented for a vote. This wouldn't have entailed a prime-time speech. But in response all he received was a copy of a letter sent by the convention's general counsel to its parliamentarian, explaining that, according to platform committee rules, his request was "out of order." Casey found the perfunctory dismissal demeaning. He calls it "the kind of letter they might have sent Lyndon LaRouche."

Casey's claim that he fell victim to an orchestrated campaign to silence his pro-life views has never been proven and doesn't appear likely based on the available evidence. Its currency stems mostly from his indefatigable promulgation of it. Yet the media have accepted the story at face value. At the very least they should be aware that, in so doing, they are playing into Casey's — and the Republicans' — hands.

Michael Crowley is a reporter for *The New Republic*, in which this article first appeared.

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Extremists endanger life of a great jurist

BY ALAN DERSHOWITZ

Less than a year after the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin — by a Jewish student stimulated by ambiguous demands for Rabin's death by some ultra-Orthodox fanatics — there is a danger of recurrence. This time the target is the president of Israel's Supreme Court, Professor Aharon Barak, one of the world's most respected jurists. Professor Barak — who has taught at the law schools of Harvard, Yale, New York University, Michigan and Hebrew University — is the recipient of the Israel Prize for his many scholarly books. Before becoming a justice of Israel's Supreme Court, Barak was the attorney general of Israel, and before that, the dean of the Hebrew University Law School and a consultant to the United Nations.

Professor Barak's "crime" is that the Israeli Supreme Court, over which he presides, recently ruled that a major Jerusalem thoroughfare, which borders an ultra-Orthodox neighborhood, should not be closed on the Jewish Sabbath, pending further proceedings. He also has ruled in favor of the rights of Reform and Conservative Jews and against the monopoly on religion claimed by the Orthodox minority in Israel. Some fanatics, who represent a tiny fraction of Israel's religiously diverse population, believe that Israel should become a theocracy, governed by God's law, as they define it. The vast majority of Israelis disagree. They want the Jewish state to remain essentially secular, with freedom of religion — and irreligion — for all. The Israeli Supreme Court, much like its American counterpart, has generally sided with those who would keep church, synagogue and mosque separate from the state. These rulings have led some ayatollahs of ultra-Orthodox Jewish fundamentalism to brand Barak a "dangerous enemy" of Orthodox Jews. Most Orthodox Jews do not, of course, so regard this great Jewish jurist, but some ultra-Orthodox fanatics claim to speak for all devout Jews. They have plastered their neighborhoods with hateful anti-Barak posters and have circulated an article proclaiming Barak to be "a dangerous enemy" of "the Orthodox public."

It was just this kind of hate speech which stimulated Yigal Amir to believe that it was his religious duty to strike down another 'dangerous enemy,' namely, Prime Minister Rabin.

It was just this kind of hate speech which stimulated Yigal Amir to believe that it was his religious duty to strike down another "dangerous enemy," namely, Prime Minister Rabin. Some ultra-Orthodox fundamentalists believe that they must follow the orders of their rabbis, regardless of whether the orders would violate secular law.
Although everyone should be free to criticize the courts, the phrase "dangerous enemy" is something of a code-word in the post-Rabin-assassination era. Several ultra-Orthodox rabbis had declared Rabin to be a "dangerous enemy," thus invoking an alleged religious rule of collective self-defense, which justifies the killing of such enemies. All responsible Jewish scholars reject this perverse interpretation of Jewish law, which would — in effect — give every fundamentalist rabbi the power to decide who is a "dangerous enemy" deserving of preventive assassination. There are, however, some who claim that power in the name of their God. All that is required is one zealot, who interprets the attacks on Barak as a religious invitation to his assassination.

It is not surprising, therefore, that a respected legal commentator for Israel Radio has said that the campaign against Barak "has all the signs of the incitement and bloodlust" that appeared a year ago against Rabin.

When I was in Israel several weeks ago, I had lunch with Justice Barak, whom I have known for more than 30 years. This time, the mild-mannered scholar was accompanied by a bodyguard. It pained me to see this man, who had survived the Nazi Holocaust by being hidden in a wall, needing to be protected against Jews! But it is a sign of the times. The greatest enemy of democracy and freedom in today's world are religious fundamentalists, who believe that they have the right to enforce what they believe is their God's commands. There is no real difference between an Islamic fundamentalist who issues a death warrant against Salman Rushdie, a Christian fundamentalist who calls for the killing of abortion doctors and a Jewish fundamentalist who calls for the assassination of a prime minister seeking a controversial peace or a Supreme Court justice issuing a controversial judicial ruling.

The irony is that Justice Barak has ruled in favor of the most expansive freedom of speech. He would, almost certainly, defend the right of ultra-Orthodox extremists to call him a "dangerous enemy." But just because an extremist may have "the right" to make an irresponsible statement does not make it "right." Neo-Nazis may have the right to parade in Skokie, Ill., but that did not make it right for them to do so. The dangerous attacks on the president of the Israel Supreme Court should be universally condemned, especially by responsible Orthodox rabbis, and Aharon Barak must be protected against those fanatics who erroneously believe that it would be permissible under Jewish law to do violence to this great man.

Alan M. Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University. His newest book is *Reasonable Doubts* (Simon & Schuster).

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EDITORIAL CARTOONS

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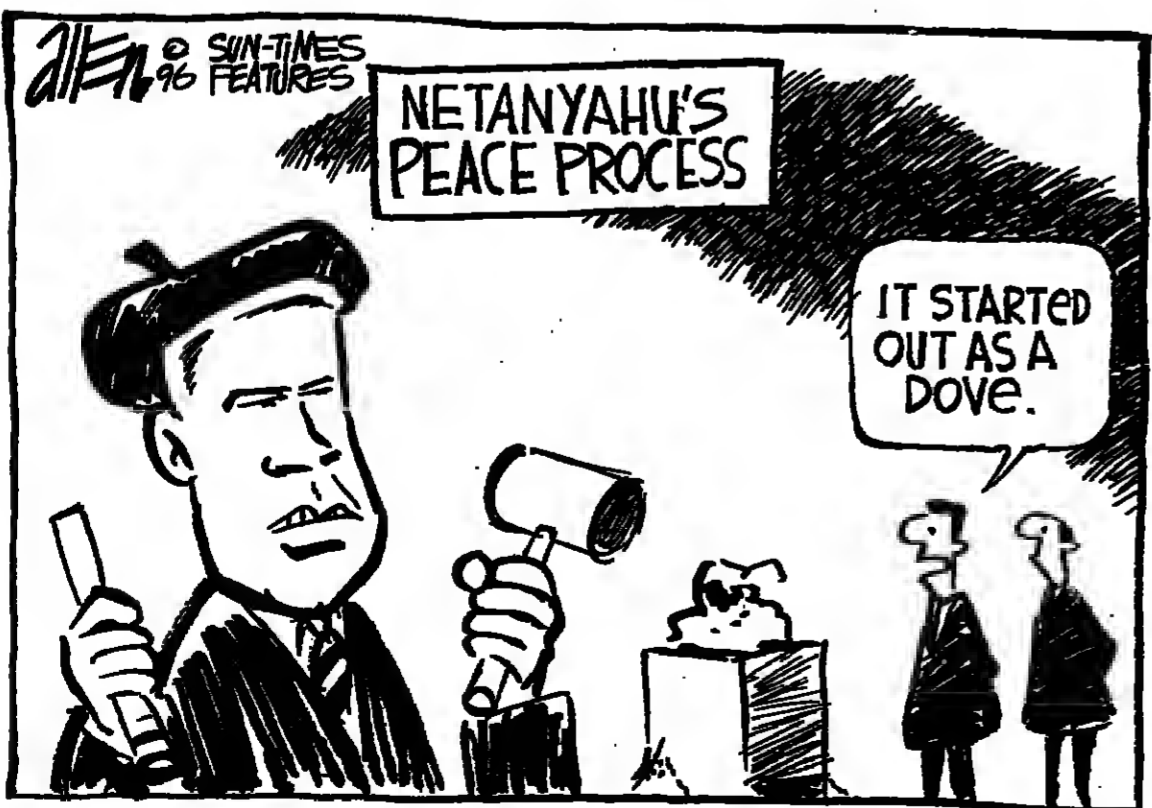
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BOB DOLE'S POST-CONVENTION BOUNCE



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Opportunism, not principles, is what counts in politics

BY MICHAEL WALZER

Political opportunism is an odd vice. We commonly abhor it in our friends but welcome it in our opponents. Visiting Israel this past summer, I found the country's left holding its collective breath and hoping that Benjamin Netanyahu is not a man of principle. Let him take stock of the situation, my friends said, consult Israel's security experts and its generals, its economists and businessmen. And then let him give up his commitment to Greater Israel for the sake of greater prosperity, the American alliance, an entree to European markets, secure relations with Egypt, the lesser evil of Yasir Arafat and so on. Some who voted for him welcome exactly this surrender — voters are often cynical-smart — but many others will feel betrayed if it comes. They will call "Bibi" an opportunist. I long to hear the word.

When confronted with people whose political principles we find immoral and obnoxious, we suddenly discover the virtue of pragmatism. Don't you see the electoral opportunity?, I would say to Netanyahu (if he asked me). If you can advance the peace process from the far right, Likud will hold power for years to come — and you will, too. I would trade potential right-wing victories in the future for a little opportunistic decency here and now.

On the other hand, when U.S. President Bill Clinton promised to sign the Republican welfare bill, I was among those who felt betrayed. Doesn't he man have any principles? It's probably true that welfare reform was given such a central role in Clinton's 1992 campaign only because it scored so well with the focus groups organized by his staff. Indeed, no line was greeted with greater enthusiasm throughout the months of speechmaking than his pledge "to end welfare as we know it." So opportunism was the starting point. But, once elected, Clinton put Donna Shalala in charge of Health and Human Services, and she brought good people (David Ellwood, Mary Jo Bane) to work on the reform program. Their proposals were certainly principled enough (that's why they got nowhere politically). They recognized that serious reform would cost serious money in the short run, whatever its long-term fiscal benefits. "Welfare" wasn't possible, at least it wasn't morally possible, without jobs, job training,

child care and more. The bill that Clinton has now signed provides little money for these things, and therefore it is a reform of the system so much as an act of hostility against the people the system helped, a punitive campaign against the poor. But the Republicans have triumphed in the politics of naming: this is the available "reform," and Clinton has gone along with it, opportunistically, to seize a piece of the credit.

That, of course, is exactly what I expected him to do. I wasn't at all surprised to be "betrayed." Aren't politicians supposed to be opportunistic — especially in democracies where the imperatives of re-election always loom? It is opportunism that connects them to the political process and forces responsibility upon them. The picture that disillusioned liberals and the Dole campaign alike have drawn in recent months — of an upright president ruling according to his principles, without regard for public opinion, reckless of popular support — is a false picture of how democratic politics works, or should work. We want presidents to be responsive, to take regular soundings of the people's views about the success or failure of administration policies, then to adjust the policies. They should refuse to make the adjustments only if they sense the public will welcome a rousing refusal to bow to public opinion. Sure, politicians should sometimes accept defeat for the sake of moral principle. But such moments are rare in the political life of a functioning democracy; responsible politicians avoid the melodrama of self-sacrifice. If they didn't, they wouldn't be politicians.

So my sense of betrayal was in fact an act of moral self-indulgence — a way of blaming the president for doing what presidents do, what they should do. The real failure in the welfare reform story was not Clinton's. It belongs instead to liberals and leftists (like me and my friends) in the country at large, who lacked the will, or the energy, or the capacity, to mobilize opposition to this Congress's fake "reform." Had we done so, we might have given Clinton a different opportunity schedule.

Consider the facts that must have figured in the president's calculations. People on welfare are not politically organized, and they vote in relatively small numbers. In general, men and women living below the poverty line are only half as likely to vote as men and women who earn \$35,000 and

above. The union movement, whose leaders urged a veto, has been in radical decline for decades now; the percentage of organized workers in the private sector is currently at pre-New Deal levels. The Democratic Party no longer has a strong urban base, with ward and precinct organizations that can "deliver" an election. The gap that separates poor Americans from the rest of the country has been widening, in every sense: the poor are poorer, more segregated geographically, more disconnected from the economy, with fewer organizational links to the middle classes. No one came to Washington, as Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan told a New York Times reporter, to lobby against welfare "reform." So what purchase on the mind of the president could the idea of a veto have?

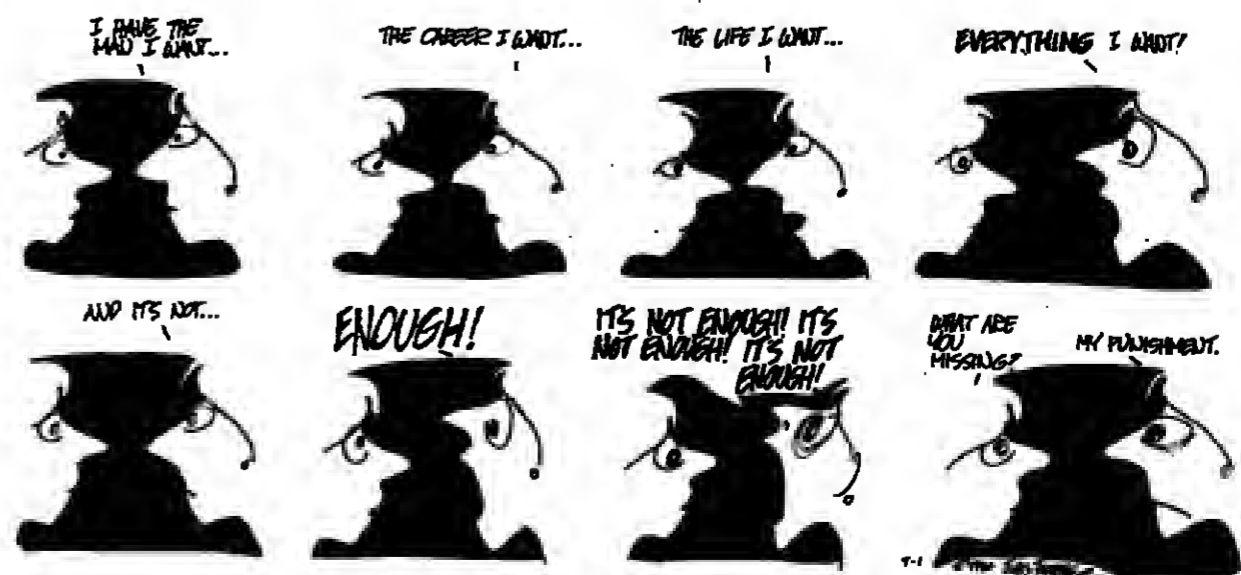
Of course, he had vetoed earlier versions of the welfare bill. But those vetoes were part of the negotiating process. They gave him a stake in the bill. They forced additions and revisions that he can now call his own. The bill is slightly better than it would have been, and this is the president's work. So, perhaps, he can smooth his conscience; opportunists have consciences, too. But presidents don't act conscientiously. They act politically. They make judgments about what will mobilize support and build coalitions. They do what pleases or what they think will please the most people. Advocates of real welfare reform need to find some way to make themselves the people who have to be pleased.

Netanyahu will probably prove more faithful to his principles than Clinton. Politicians of the far right (the far left, too) are less likely to be opportunistic because they are less committed to democratic values, contemptuous of the people or, at least, of selected portions of the people. They know what patriots and loyal citizens should think and do. They have no interest in compromising with men and women who are "soft" or deluded about the national enemy. The one left, by contrast, wants all politicians, its own included, to respond to the popular will. It is those of us out of power, free of governmental responsibility, who have to challenge that will and try to change it. Waiting for a principled president is bad politics.

Michael Walzer is a contributing editor to *The New Republic*, in which this article first appeared.

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SUNDAY COMICS

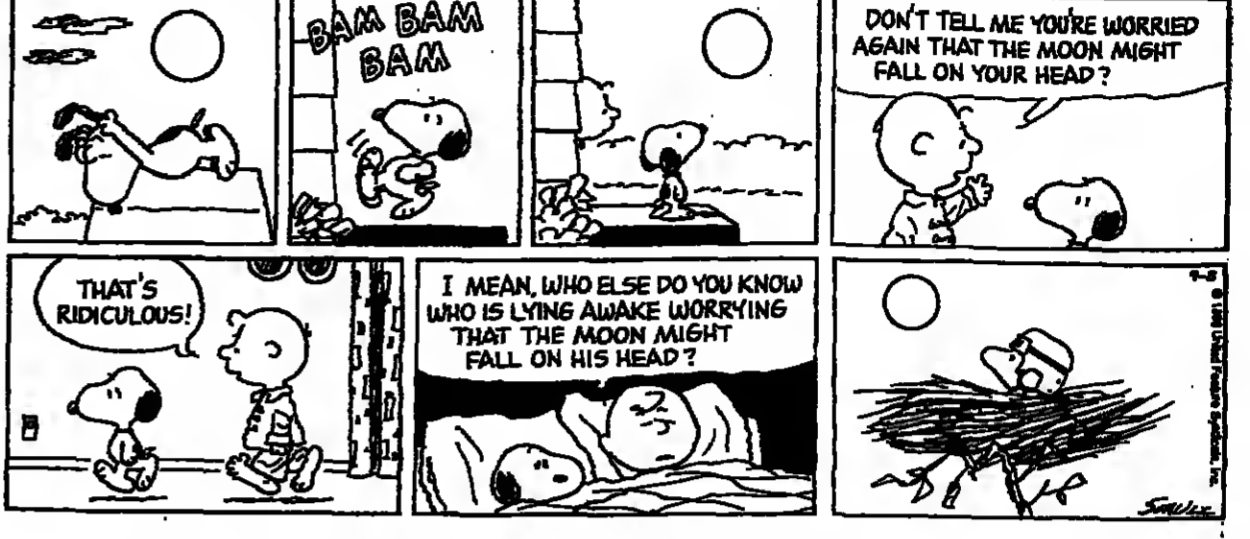
Doonesbury

G.B. TRUDEAU



PEANUTS

by Schulz



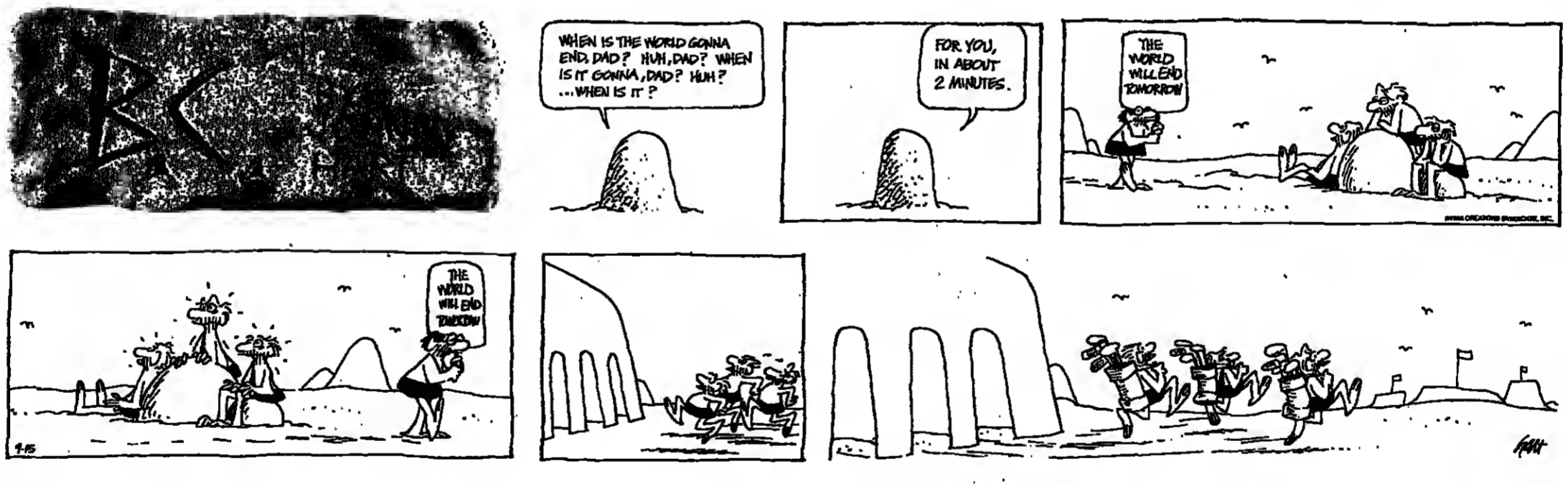
Strip

By JEFF MEYER



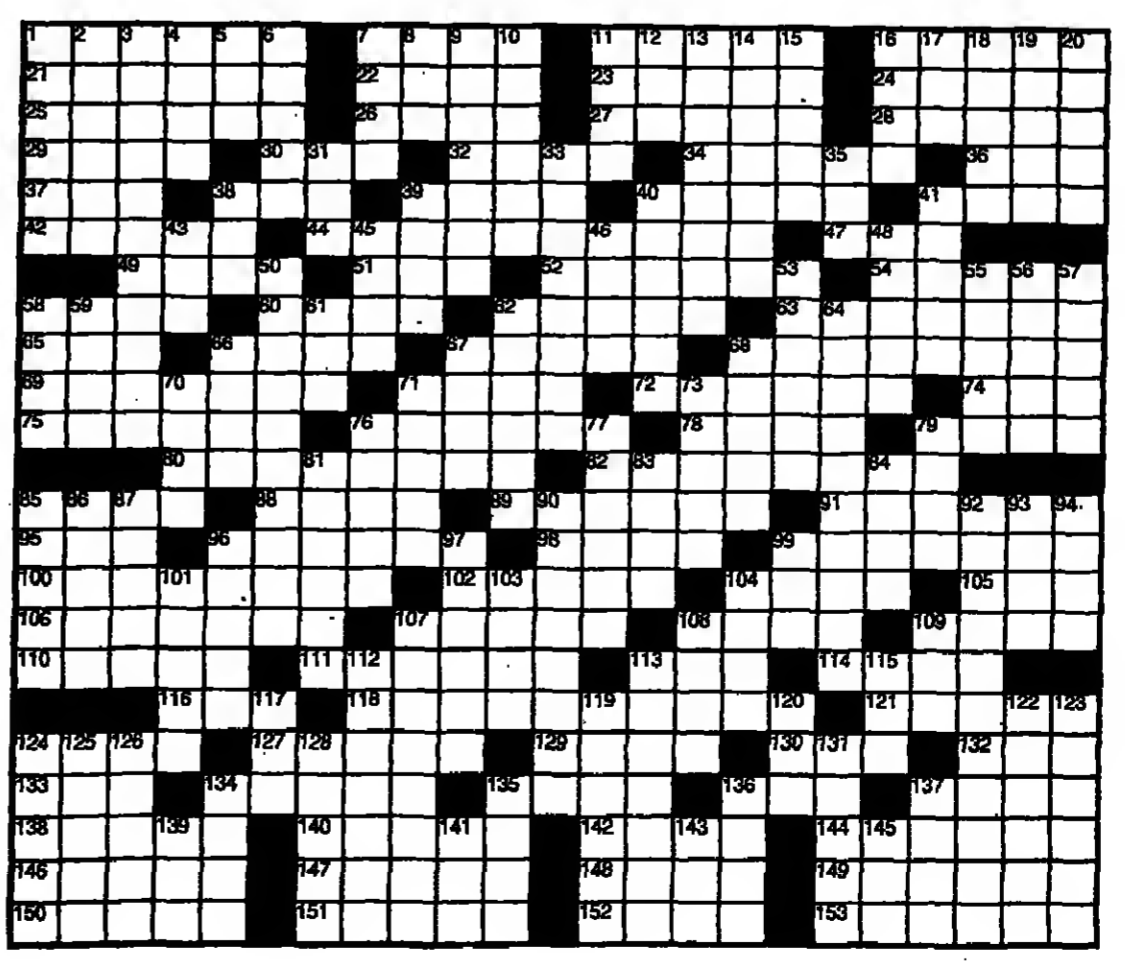
Calvin and Hobbes

by NEWMAN



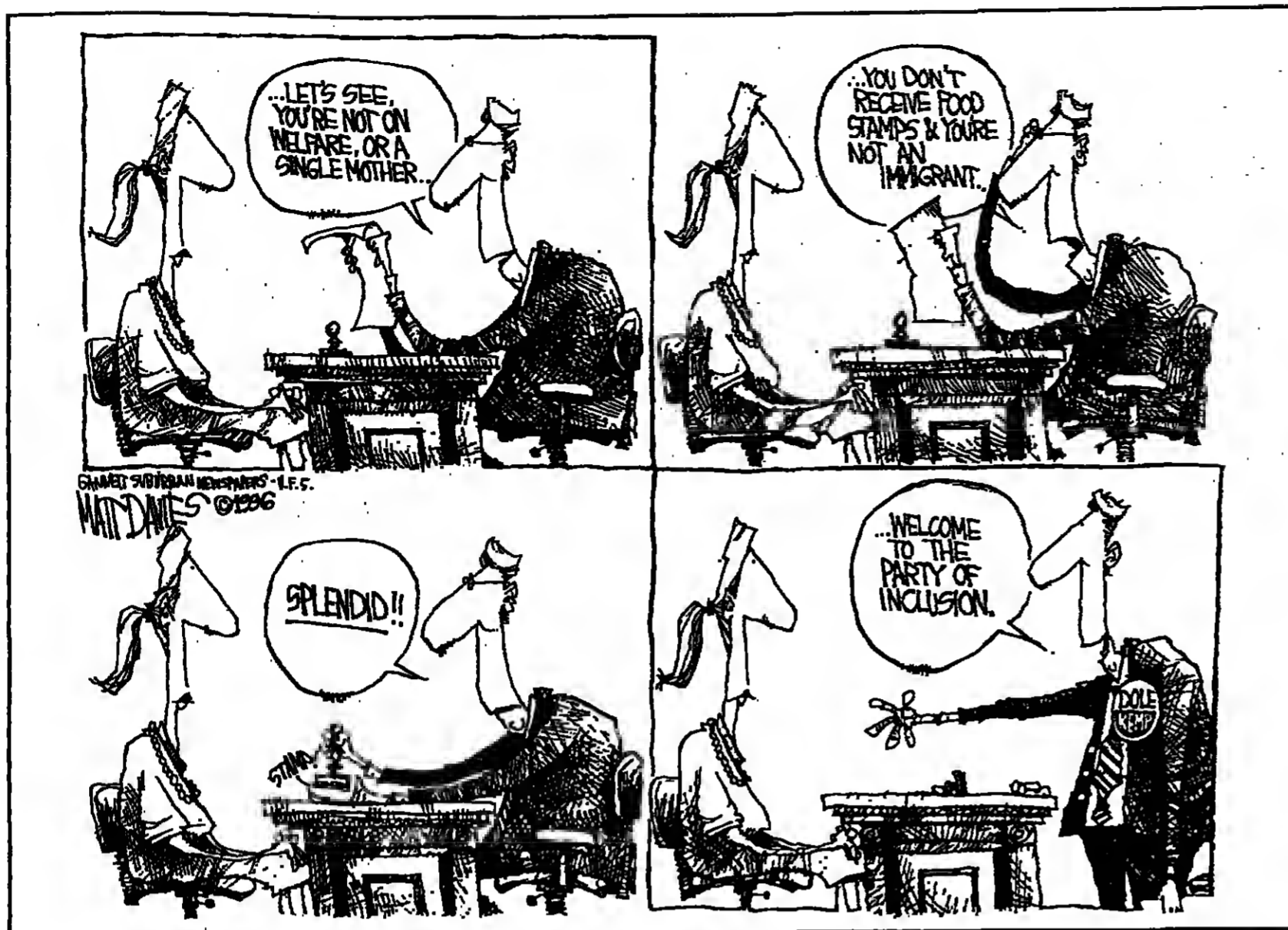
TODAY'S SUNDAY PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Watched one's weight
 - 7 Out of danger
 - 11 At the present time
 - 16 Not
 - 21 Not finished
 - 22 Shakespeare's river
 - 23 Mountain ridge
 - 24 Presidential
 - 25 Type of attack
 - 28 Puppeteer Tory
 - 27 Term
 - 29 Displaced person
 - 29 London gallery
 - 30 Address West
 - 32 Essence
 - 34 House gods
 - 38 Snow White's friend
 - 37 DOE's command
 - 38 — Cruise, Nile
 - 38 Oriental shoguns
 - 40 View
 - 41 Chubby guy
 - 42 Fall hat
 - 44 Presidential
 - 47 Spill
 - 48 Coze
 - 51 Exit
 - 52 Emphasize
 - 54 Sundry ground
 - 58 Ripoff
 - 60 Otherwise
 - 62 Moon cycle
 - 63 Hard rubber
 - 65 In the past
 - 66 Actress Adams
 - 67 Singer Frankie
 - 68 Walked pompously
 - 69 Left the work force
 - 71 Cut down with — a scythe
 - 72 Fixed machine part
 - 74 Sharp turn
 - 75 Belated
 - 76 Film-festival city
 - 78 Once more
 - 79 Actress Daly
 - 80 Alliance
- DOWN**
- 1 Did a household job
 - 2 Natives
 - 3 1986 Belmont
 - 5 Winner
 - 4 Drink excessively
 - 5 Compass pt.
 - 6 Skin
 - 7 Enclosure acronym
 - 8 Actress Gardner
 - 9 Pardon
 - 10 Editor
 - 11 Diplomacy
 - 12 Spanish gold
 - 13 Person held captive
 - 14 Bears witness
 - 15 Bread-maker's need
 - 16 Alcoholic beverage
 - 17 Not strict
 - 18 Out of the way
 - 19 Gourd fruit
 - 20 Vote into office
 - 31 Bat wood
 - 33 "You Are My —" a Camera
 - 35 — a Camera
 - 36 Soap ingredient
 - 39 Swiss river
 - 40 Poety
 - 41 18th president
 - 43 Garden plot
 - 45 Alleviate
 - 46 Olio's friend
 - 48 Love affair
 - 50 Walker
 - 53 Sofa
 - 55 Fashionable
 - 56 Bear rug
 - 57 Shrub fence
 - 59 Peaker Chagall
 - 59 Couch river
 - 61 Cover
 - 62 Indian tribe
 - 64 Baked pudding
 - 66 Cupid
 - 67 Shelley — ("Diana")
 - 68 Actress Duncan
 - 70 — of March
 - 71 Clerk's home
 - 73 Pungent
 - 76 Soviet class
 - 77 Cooked slowly
 - 78 Lebanese city
 - 81 Decomposed
 - 83 CD record
 - 84 Colombian city
 - 85 Insignificant person
 - 86 Evangelist McPherson
 - 87 Actress
 - 88 Unfilled
 - 89 Court sport
 - 93 Jacob's twin
 - 94 Singer Home
 - 96 Attempted
 - 97 Eggnog discontent
 - 99 Tear
 - 101 Delight in (another's misfortune)
 - 108 Incursion
 - 109 — in very timid
 - 103 Confront
 - 104 Scarlett's home
 - 107 Spoofing
 - 108 Incursion
 - 109 — in very timid
 - 112 Made mad
 - 113 Mill address
 - 117 — Rio, TX
 - 119 Indigenous
 - 120 Long arm of the —
 - 122 Baby's shoe
 - 123 Author Hemingway
 - 124 Pastry cover
 - 125 Respect
 - 128 Author Zola
 - 128 May Tyler
 - 131 Biblical leader
 - 134 Ward off
 - 135 God of war
 - 138 Golf club
 - 137 Nervous
 - 139 Foot digit
 - 141 French season
 - 143 Mine product
 - 145 Devour



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Safety nets are for tragedy, not 'tragedy by choice'

By BILL STEPHNEY

In the most talked about black comedy performance since Eddie Murphy's "Raw," former "Saturday Night Live" star Chris Rock declares in his recent HBO special that there's "a war going on... black people vs. niggas!" In Takoma Park, in the heart of the Washington, D.C.-Prince Georges County, Md., black belt, Rock describes the two groups' divergent responses to the welfare bill before Congress. "Black people don't give a f--- about welfare; niggas are shaking in their boots!" Rock's monologue and the exuberant "hoot's and 'reach, brother's" it elicits from an all-black crowd reflect what polling data from within the African American community has said for years: The silent majority of black folk don't want welfare and its destructive effects.

In contrast to the rhetoric of the fiftysomething civil rights leaders assembled at the Democratic convention, you can hear a younger generation's rejection of "welfare culture" on the streets, in black newspapers, on black talk radio and in rap music. Take the lyrics from the recent hit single "If I Ruled The World," by Nas: "Nn welfare supporters/More conscious of the way we raise our daughters." Rap, for the most part, represents young black male anxiety over not just the white male patriarchy (police, racist employers, etc.) but also the black female matriarchy.

The misogyny articulated by the hip hop generation comes from its marginalization by a welfare system that defines "family" as a woman with children and a check from AFDC or child support. It's not just the demise of work in urban America that has alienated black men from the family-supporting and child-rearing positions they used to occupy with pride, it's a welfare/child-support system that has substituted for them. It's 30 years of black male dislocation that's moved us from the R&B of 25 years ago — "Ain't No Woman Like The One I've Got" — to such lyrics as "Bitches Ain't Nuthin But Hoers and Tricks."

What are the responsibilities today for a 19-year-old male when his 18-year-old "shirty" becomes pregnant? Since Roe vs. Wade (which some think black folk are too primitive to know about), the decision to bring a pregnancy to term is hers alone. Once the child is born, according to most state paternity statutes, he has no rights to it (only the birth mother does). He does have immediate financial responsibilities for the mother and child, whether or not he marries her, even though black women are employed at a higher rate than black men.

What compelling reason does the 18-

year-old woman have to marry this young man? Marriage will knock out the child-industrial complex she can enjoy, which can include AFDC, health benefits for her children, housing and energy assistance programs, day care, off-the-books employment such as babysitting, hair-weaving and backup singing, cash from new and old boyfriends, cash from her mother and relatives, cash and gifts from her homegirls. I know of popular vocalists (men, for that matter, as well as women) who while still living in government-subsidized housing were making tens of thousands of dollars doing recordings, voiceovers and live performances. This "CREAM" scenario — "Cash Rules Everything Around Me," in the words of the rappers Method Man and the Wu-Tang Clan — is all these young men and women know. We have the money-for-nothing welfare mentality to thank for it.

For most black men from 1865 through

The misogyny articulated by the hip hop generation comes from its marginalization by a welfare system that defines 'family' as a woman with children and a check from AFDC or child support.

1965, it was a moral, ethical and spiritual relationship with their wives and their children that gave them the inner strength to fight racism and build their communities. Where marriages failed, the metaphorical "African village" of loving grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and neighbors stepped in.

The boys and men devalued and replaced by the current welfare system have taken their dysfunction not only to the recording studio but to the streets as well. According to a study in The Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency by Douglas A. Smith and G. Roger Jarjoura, titled "Social Structure and Criminal Victimization," single parenting correlates with violent crime much more strongly than does poverty alone. Letters written by John Royster, accused of a terror spree resulting in one murder, a vicious rape in Central Park and two other attacks, told of a life where "he hated his mother" and "she hated him because he looked just like his biological father." In 1960 (during the time of George Wallace and

Lester Maddox), there were about 25,000 black men incarcerated in America, while 80 percent of black children were born to families with a married mother and father. Thirty-five years later, after Martin Luther King, busing, Black Power, Hendrix, Oprah, the Huxtables, the Congressional Black Caucus, Carol Moseley-Braun, Colin Powell, high-top fades and, sadly, 72 percent of black children being born to a single mother, I present these statistics:

Incarceration rate: 1994
 white female: 50,700 inmates / 60 per 100,000
 white male: 674,400 inmates / 860 per 100,000
 black female: 52,000 inmates / 435 per 100,000
 black male: 683,200 inmates / 6,753 per 100,000

Welfare: blow it up. Get rid of it. Americans deserve safety nets if the family is struck by unforeseen tragedy, not if the tragedy is by choice. Government should cease taking its political lead from spokespersons who couldn't run a successful lemonade stand in the Sahara Desert. In 1978 there was no such thing as recorded rap music. Now it is a \$2 billion entry, with dozens of young, black multi-millionaire businesspersons. The civil rights-big government coalition may spend the coming years fighting to restore the welfare/child support system that this Congress and this president have taken apart. But, in other parts of the African American community, we've moved on.

Bill Stephney is CEO of StepSun Music and the producer and co-creator of the rap group Public Enemy. This article first appeared in The New Republic.

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Platform tells little about Dem views

By ROBERT NOVAK

Enjoying the most peaceful, unified Democratic National Convention in memory, delegates temper their overriding optimism about a second term for President Clinton with unease about the party's future.

Anybody sophisticated enough to be a delegate understands Clinton's — and the convention's — need for Republican-sounding rhetoric to reassure the electorate. Still, there are liberals in Chicago who perceive a hollow convention that reflects a hollow party.

A California delegate, a mainstream liberal and active party worker for three decades, told me over coffee the morning after a carefully programmed convention session: "It's a sham. Our convention is a sham, just like the San Diego convention was a sham. Both tried to hide what they stand for. But we don't even know where we are going."

Nothing better substantiates this delegate's sour assessment than the atrophied party platform. Democrats have been fighting about platforms throughout their history, in lean and fat years. The civil-rights plank was bitterly contested at Atlantic City in 1964, followed by a Democratic landslide. The all-night platform debate at Miami Beach in 1972 was followed by a Democratic debacle.

This year's watery platform, dictated by the Clinton campaign — as is everything else here — offers little sustenance for mind or soul. Platform committee members were well aware that everything they did was subject to White House review and absolute veto power.

That power was exercised late in the platform process. The platform's denunciation of Republican welfare reform was obediently reversed, with neither protest nor debate, once Clinton signed the bill. Nor was the change mentioned on the convention floor in the non-debate preceding voice vote approval of the platform. Far from being debated, the declaration of party principles was not even explained.

There was fuller explanation to delegates of a document that amounted to a second platform: "Putting Families First," drafted by congressional Democratic leaders. The separate plan reflects the gap between Capitol Hill and the White House but offers little improvement on the platform. "We spent a year taking testimony and working hard," a liberal congressman told me, "and came up with a big nothing."

A big nothing in substance was what the nation saw on network television during the one-hour prime-time window the first two nights of the convention. Sarah Brady, while trashing her Republican roots, talked only about the issue of gun control. The disabled actor Christopher Reeve's endless speech avoided all issues.

After Monday night's bathos, prime-time viewers finally were going to be told by a working politician what the party stands for: Tuesday's keynote address from Indiana Gov. Evan Bayh, a potential new national star. After perusing Bayh's pedestrian script, however, convention managers at the last minute switched places between him and Hillary Rodham Clinton to give her Tuesday's featured speaking slot.

Pre-prime-time speeches by Jesse Jackson and Mario Cuomo were intended to give a little of the old-time liberal religion to predominantly leftist delegates and politely echo the delegates' disapproval of Clinton on the welfare bill. But while Jackson remains a spectacular narrator, he is tamed — no longer a dangerous force on the Democratic scene. Cuomo repeated the America-is-divided theme of his triumphant 1984 keynote at San Francisco, but in the wake of his 1994 defeat for re-election as governor of New York has lost his force.

Cuomo's time is past, but has Bayh's arrived? The 40-year-old Hoosier governor is a moderate conservative, not in touch ideologically with these delegates. His speech reflected less his own philosophy than White House talking points, a dismal effort that was not punched up by a new ending written minutes before his presentation. Unable to display what makes him popular in conservative Indiana, Bayh showed the difficulty at this convention when Clinton managers stray from syrupy non-politicians.

Robert Novak is a nationally syndicated columnist of the Chicago Sun-Times.

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AMERICAN OUTLOOK

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سكزا من الاصل

Digital cameras: The future is now

IMAGINE a camera that uses no film. There's nothing to buy in order to make a picture, no chemical processing, no waiting, no waste. Imagine taking a photograph which in minutes can be seen on a computer or television screen. The on-screen image can be enhanced and manipulated in thousands of ways, and you can keep the best and delete the rest.

Individuals can incorporate family pictures in printed or e-mail greetings cards and invitations; business and industry can instantly proliferate pictures of products via the Internet around the world. In theory digital cameras sound great. And in the next century the overwhelming majority of images will be "recorded" rather than "taken."

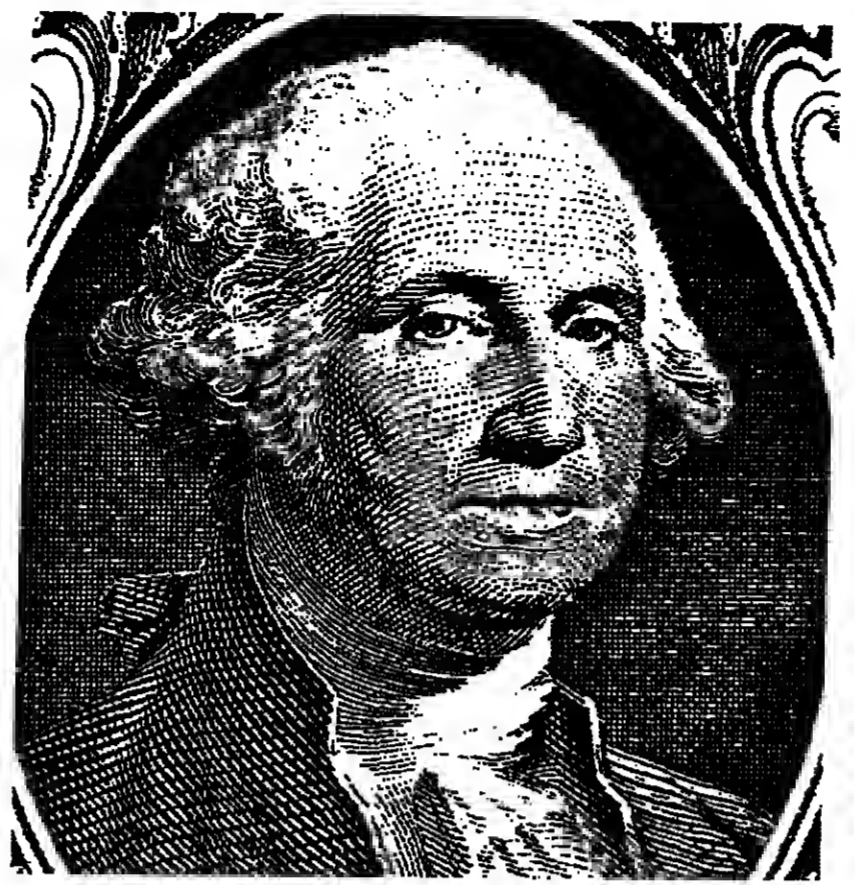
Non-professional digital cameras currently on the market (only abroad) range in price between approximately \$350 and \$5,000. Many models look like ordinary pocket cameras whilst others are space age in design. They are manufactured either by computer companies like Epson and Casio, or traditional photo firms like Kodak, Polaroid and Fujifilm. The limitations of the first generation

digital camera are many; not the least being picture quality. On the whole the image quality is poorer than the standard VGA or Mac color monitor screen.

Digital picture resolution is determined by the number of picture elements or "pixels." Pixels are tiny color-carrying dots. To illustrate, a single frame of color film captures around 114 million pixels of information instantaneously. Today the average digital camera can only record less than one percent of a film frame's information or about 921,600 pixels per picture. To give the appearance of a stronger image, many cameras produce a 3-D movie or TV-style picture by exaggerating colors and luminance around the edges of objects.

A second cause of reduced picture quality comes in due to picture storage in the camera. In order to store more pictures, either on a memory chip or a transferable "PC card," the camera "compresses" the information. Compression reduces the number of pixels, which computer software can later "decompress." But picture resolution is never the same after compression. The greater

the compression, the worse the degradation. Some cameras offer options: higher compression and greater storage capacity, or no compression, but fewer pictures stored. The sensitivity of the charged coupled



George Washington from a one dollar bill (above), detail from a NIS 100 note (left), and the drawing of an eye all show tiny picture elements or 'pixels,' which are the building blocks of digital pictures. (David Brauner)

device (CCD), which is similar in function to the eye's retina, is equivalent to 100 ASA/ISO film, in other words, relatively slow. That means the light has to be bright. Most of the cameras have a disconcerting delay between pressing shutter and actual picture taking. Moving subjects are, therefore, somewhat problematical. Also, it takes an average of five to eight seconds to digitally store the picture, during which time another picture cannot be taken.

All digital cameras come with built-in software for transferring images to a computer, certain "housekeeping" functions (camera settings, deleting, etc.) and some have added basic image-editing applications for cropping and color balancing.

The images can be transferred to a computer via a cable or a PC card, which is a solid "hard disc," somewhat thicker than a credit card. Generally, transfer takes about two minutes per picture, sometimes longer depending on the camera, software and the amount of compression.

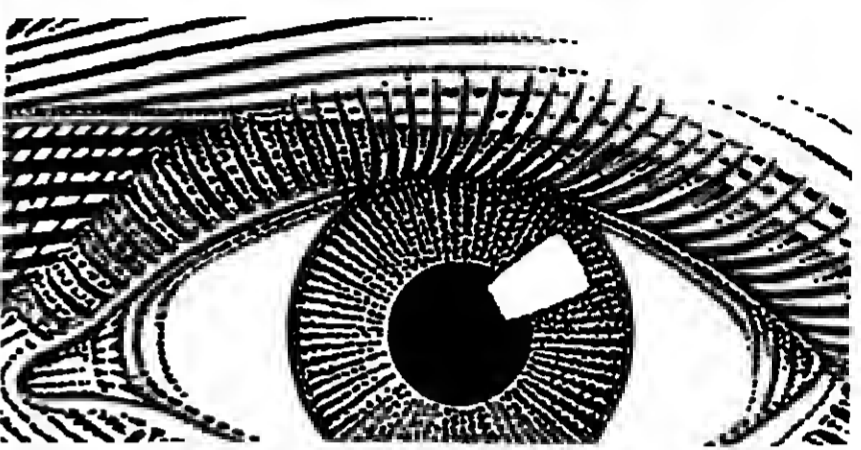
If this all sounds off-putting, there are, nevertheless, certain features available even today that no film camera can

match: For example, the \$1,200 Fuji DS-220 comes with an optional LCD screen that allows the photographer to instantly review pictures. The \$1,700 Ricoh RDC-1 doubles as a video camera, but only for a few minutes. It can also record 10 seconds of sound. The \$5,000 Polaroid PDC-2000 stores 60 relatively high quality (uncompressed) images almost twice as many as on a single film on its built-in hard disc drive.

Nikon will soon release a camera the size of a mobile phone, which can record up to 17 minutes of audio information, and handwritten captions can be added to each picture (anywhere on the image) with an electronic pen. The price will be over \$3,500.

Some professional digital cameras costing up to \$40,000 are in use in Israel at the Government Press Office, the Defence Ministry and the large Hebrew dailies.

If that kind of money sounds too rich for your blood, but you still want to try digital photography, there's the new entry-price Kodak DC20 at \$350 (not yet sold in Israel), the first digital "box" camera available on the mass market.



The continuity of war

IS savagery contagious or just hereditary? British historian John Keegan tends to believe it is both. He describes the charge of the People of the Steppes from central Asia, on the civilized parts of China and Europe in the latter part of the Middle Ages in *A History of Warfare*, which was made available to the Hebrew reader as *Toldot Halehima* (Dvir Publishers), just two years after it was published in England.

Unlike many a military historian, Keegan has never been a soldier, because a childhood disease had left him infirm. But his father was a soldier, and so were many of his Oxford buddies, whose career Keegan had followed closely. "Soldiers are not as everybody else," he concluded after observing "the military tribe" of his colleagues on the academic staff at Sandhurst.

When the fighting men in western Mongolia had tamed the wild Przewalski horse that roamed in the steppes, they began their onslaught, Keegan writes. The riding man and his beast became one inseparable unit, moving swiftly, destroying any human barrage passed on the way.

The bow and arrow were the riding man's weapon, which he used whilst on the move. And there was no end to his cruelty. The utmost pleasure of Attila, the leader of the Huns, was to decimate his adversary, plunder, kill and rape.

The western trek had been taken before. The Assyrians, the Persians, the barbarians under their many names crossed the confines of civilization of the Middle East and Europe, learning nothing of the culture of the people they destroyed, says Keegan. But in the year 751 CE the empire they had built was checked by a new force emerging from the heart of the Middle East: the Arabs.

THERE AND THEN
SRAVA SHAPIRO

The Arab contribution to warfare was ideology. Indeed, ideology had before moved the Hebrews when they emerged from the Sinai, in the name of the all-powerful God. But in the case of the Arabs the scope was much, much greater.

The aim of war for the Moslems was to bring all men to abide by God. However, the Arabs had never learned to be forceful fighters, remarks Keegan. Their preferred way of fighting was the raid. Their commanders did not show much imagination in inventing stratagems. Their horses were pampered creatures, a far cry from the sturdy ponies of the steppes, but the camel permitted the Arabs to quickly cross vast areas which more civilized troops believed impassable.

Their most powerful asset was the surprise. They stunned the Byzantines - primitive as this sort of fighting may be, it was very effective in harassing the professional hosts. Keegan believes that what turned the Arab onslaught into a winning act was their persistence.

THE CONQUEST of the Holy Land by the Crusaders was of a different nature. The Crusaders were chevaliers, mounted knights, whose aims were limited. They scrimmaged for some 100 years with local chieftains, until they were given a severe blow by Saladin, a Kurdish soldier in Egyptian pay. But while the Europeans and the local military potentates quarreled, the Mongolian People of the Steppes swept away everything on their way: Christians and Moslems alike.

The core of Genghis Khan's armies was very small - about 23,000 men, Keegan says. But the Mongol conqueror increased his effective strength by incorporating local tribes into accepting his leadership. Genghis kept his host disciplined in the extreme: the soldiers were not allowed to take captive women - many a successful invasion had disintegrated when its chiefs began quarreling about the females they caught. Genghis was very prompt in taking the offensive: His revenge was bloody and extensive, the natural reaction of a primitive man encountering a cultivated society.

It is a moot question to speculate if the defenders of the Middle East stood a chance to stop the Mongols, or any other invader, had they been aware of the impending attack. More often than not the indigenous populations were so stunned by the rumors of the invincible raider that they offered no resistance at all.

The dominance of the People of the Steppes collapsed the moment their horses had munched off all the grass on their way. Regular pasture requires a steady effort by the farmer: pasture and agriculture do not coexist. Willy-nilly the conqueror was destined to adapt himself to the culture of the people he had subdued.

The tragedy persisted however, when the sons of the Steppes kept the husbandman in servitude.

History is repetitive. The site of Adrianople (Edirne) in the Balkans saw 13 battles between 323 and 1913. German tanks in the Blitzkrieg of 1940 followed the Route Nationale 43, which is the road Julius Caesar had built. Would anybody open to more information than this writer try and guess from which quarter history might surprise us...

Those fascinating felines

SOME very interesting questions have come from readers lately. One of them concerns the unusual arrangement in the mouth of the cat which is called the Jacobson's organ, named after its discoverer.

This organ is the vomeronasal sac. It is a small pouch-like structure lined with extremely sensitive receptor cells which assists the cat in defining and identifying odors. When a scent enters the nose the cat traps a small amount of the scented air with its tongue and presses it against this sac in the roof of its mouth for identification. This arrangement allows the cat a far wider range of scent identification possibilities than the nose alone provides.

The second question is not so unusual. In fact, it has been asked for centuries. One of the things that made the cat a candidate for deification in ancient Egypt was the belief that cats had an internal light source that allowed them to literally see in the dark. This misapprehension is quite understandable, for if you any sort of light at a cat in the dark you see what really appears to be two well-lighted orbs that stare back at you. Cats and many other animals possess this trait, particularly nocturnal animals.

HEADS IN TAILS
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

In order to see at all, there must be some light, so neither cats or any other animal actually "see in the dark."

But there are different degrees to which species are able to utilize the amount of available light, even when that light is very dim. The secret of the cat is in the pupil of its eye that allows it to contract or expand in order to admit controlled light. If we look at the eye of a cat sitting in a bright sunny place, we will observe that the pupil has all but disappeared and nothing remains except the tiniest vertical slit. Almost all the bright light is excluded.

On the other hand, if we look into that same eye at twilight we will see that the pupil is enormous, a great black circle almost filling the eye. In this case, every possible bit of available light is admitted. The light that is admitted is reflected by a special layer of iridescent cells called the tapetum lucidum. This is what makes a cat's eyes shine in

reflected light. It is also thought (but not proven) that this layer, or perhaps even the retina itself, has a photo-multiplying effect on received light, similar to the scintillated materials in night scopes. These adaptations allow a cat to see very well in the dimmest of lights.

The third question comes from a reader who wants to know how it is that cats always land on their feet when they are dropped or fall from a height. This facility is due to a sequence of actions that gives the cat this rather unusual ability. High-speed photographs show that first the cat levels its head until it is horizontal and upright; then the forepaws are brought up to the head, the spine twists and the hind legs flex, so that the cat lands on all four feet, back arched. The tail is used to help attain balance.

Despite this ability cats do get injured from falling from very high places, and they often suffer fractured limbs or pelvises and in some cases broken jaws and splitting of the hard palate when the chin strikes the ground.

Former dictator Idi Amin lives carefree in Saudi Arabia

TWENTY-FIVE years after he seized power and began a brutal eight-year reign of terror, Idi Amin walks the streets of Jeddah a free man - a celebrity even.

In a local grocery store, the overweight former dictator shops for yogurt and milk, pushing his own cart, wearing his long white Saudi-style robe. People come up to him in the aisles cheerily and shake his hand, asking, "How are you, Mr. President?" He smiles and answers politely. "He killed a lot of people. He ate human flesh," says the manager on duty at the "Safestway," a fellow African who says he sees Amin often in the aisles. "But it's people's nature to forget."

For those who have forgotten, Idi Amin Dada became president of Uganda in January 1971 when he seized power in a coup. During the following eight years, he murdered an estimated 300,000 of his own people.

In 1972, he exiled all 70,000 ethnic Asians from Uganda. He caused an international incident when he nearly executed a British lecturer for describing him as a "village tyrant." He praised Adolf Hitler. He proclaimed himself national heavyweight boxing champion.

Twenty years ago, he collaborated with hijackers from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine when they rerouted an Air France plane to the Ugandan airport at Entebbe.

Despite his troubling history, Amin is not living in shame, humiliation and fear in some backwater slum. He lives in a large, attractive marble villa in a somewhat rundown section of this oil-rich city, apparently with about nine of his 43-or-so children.

About 68 years old, he is a practicing Muslim whose daughters are covered, head to toe, in black. He goes to the local Bukhshian mosque every week for prayers.

Amin grants few interviews. When two American reporters appeared last week at the gates of his villa asking to speak with him, they were summarily dismissed, first by the ex-president's son, and later by a threatening security guard, who promised trouble if they reappeared. "This is the end," said a voice over the loudspeaker outside Amin's home. "He's not here."

Later, a 1 a.m. call from an aide named Abdullah offered the information that Amin was away in the capital city of Riyadh.

One of the few recent interviews Amin did give, appearing in the *Sunday Telegraph* in England three years ago, was with a former foreign correspondent who struck up a friendship with Amin in Uganda during his tenure. It was written during a visit to Jeddah in which the two recollected the good old days when they each ate a "hunk of roast hippo liver" in the Ruwenzori mountains. In Jeddah, the two "mooch around town" in Amin's white Chevrolet Caprice.

Although Amin became a joke in his day - a



Idi Amin in 1976.

Hollywood parody of an African dictator - he was, in fact, a deadly dangerous man who brought pain, devastation and bankruptcy to his own people. Like many former dictators, including Jean-Claude Duvalier of Haiti, Amin was allowed to leave peacefully by the Ugandan exiles and their Tanzanian supporters who overthrew his regime in 1979.

A guerrilla group, the West Nile Bank Front, is fighting in Uganda against current president Yoweri Museveni. Dozens have been recently killed by the group, which Museveni says is backed by Amin.

Amin has denied any connection, and said in a brief interview with a Ugandan paper in November that he had little expectation of being granted amnesty to return to Uganda. "It would be ridiculous for the people who keep calling me a huffoon and a dictator to invite me back," he said.

It appears, therefore, that his stay in Jeddah is not over yet.

Don't worry, no one but you noticed

HAVING a bad hair day? Feel like too many people are watching you? Relax. New studies say you get away with more than you think.

In a series of experiments researchers conclude that people overestimate how much attention others pay to them.

It's the spotlight effect, says psychologist Thomas Gilovich of Cornell University in New York. That is why you feel like a public failure if you stand in the corner or spill a drink at a party.

"You can relax," Gilovich says. "Many fewer people notice these and other embarrassing circumstances than you might think... People tend to think the social spotlight shines more brightly on them than it does."

Gilovich described a two-year series of experiments on the subject at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association.

In one, researchers showed up unannounced at three small undergraduate seminars at Cornell. For four days in a row, each member of each class (which typically included about 10 people), was asked how other members looked that day and how other members would think he or she looked.

The study showed that on average, each person was greatly overestimating how much others were noticing their bad days or good days.

In another experiment, each participant put on a Barry Manilow T-shirt (which another study found that most Cornell students would find embarrassing to wear in front of their peers), walked into a room of other students who were filling out questionnaires and then left after a brief stay. The participant was asked to estimate what percentage of the students noticed the shirt.

On average, they thought 46 percent noticed. In fact, only 23% did.

The same trend held true off campus. Skiers overestimated how many people riding ski lifts were scrutinizing their skiing.

Gilovich says a person typically knows that he or she is more concerned about himself or herself than others are. People take their own self-consciousness into account - but not enough - when judging how much others are paying attention, Gilovich says.

To test that idea, he did the T-shirt experiment again, but with two twists. One is that the face on the shirt was either Martin Luther King, comedian Jerry Seinfeld or reggae icon Bob Marley. Studies showed students would be proud to wear at least one of those images.

The second twist was that some students went into the room right away, while others waited a half-hour. The idea was that those who waited would get used to the T-shirt, be less self-conscious about it and not think as many people were watching.

That's exactly what happened. Students who passed through the room immediately thought about half the people in the room saw their shirt. Those who waited thought only 34% noticed. (AP)

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1996-97 Basketball Season Preview

1. MACCABI TEL AVIV

COACH: ZVI SCHERF

BUCK JOHNSON, RANDY WHITE, Doron Sheffer, Oded Katash, Nadav Henefeld, Brad Leap, Derek Sharp, Guy Goodes, Constantin Popa, Burko Radovitch, Eyal Sa'ar, Guy Zano.

AFTER last year's disappointing showing in Europe and occasional shaky performances in the league, everyone expected major changes for Maccabi Tel Aviv. However, few could have foreseen the wholesale housecleaning the club pursued over the summer, which has totally retooled the club as it heads into its first season of EuroLeague competition.

With Guy Goodes' knees still suspect, Maccabi moved to shore up its backcourt, throwing a ton of money at houb Doron Scheffer, who opted in put his NBA dream on hold, and Oded Katash, who passed up the NCAA for the blue-and-yellow. The resulting combination of Scheffer's court savvy and Katash's razzle-dazzle should prove deadly, and may soon invite comparisons with the Mickey-and-Motti era.

Maccabi also took a giant step towards plugging the gap in the middle of their defense in recent seasons, replacing the rarely airborne Radisav Curcic with Romanian naturalized player Constantin Popa, a University of Miami grad. Popa should finally give Maccabi some shot-blocking underneath, something that was sorely missing.

While other clubs are still searching for foreign players, Maccabi took care of business early this season, avoiding last year's embarrassment when the club had to wait weeks for Tom Chambers to round himself into shape. In acquiring Randy White and Buck Johnson, Maccabi not only signed former NBA players, but landed two veterans of the European wars. The two are expected to have fans comparing them to Kevin Magee and Lee Johnson.

The bench has been strengthened as well. True, Maccabi left super sub Motti Daniel leave, but added Burko Radovitch, who can supply plenty of instant offense off the bench. Brad Leap is still around after sparking Maccabi often last season, while speedy Derek Sharp gives Scherf a fine four-man rotation at guard and is expected to be a spark on defense.

Nadav Henefeld is also back at one forward spot, and should see the ball more now that Chambers is gone. Henefeld will have to provide more offense, although he remains one of the best defensive players in the league.

Finally, Maccabi also added by subtraction. By allowing Daniel and team captain Doron Jamchev to leave the club, they added an important element of youth. Too many times last year Maccabi faded in the closing minutes. Younger legs may be the answer, although Jamchev's jump shot and Daniel's aggressive play off the bench may be sorely missed.

All the changes are great for Maccabi, but bad for the league. At least on paper, Maccabi should steamroll most clubs, even with its bench. They should have no difficulty taking first place and winning the State Cup - but didn't we say that last year?

2. HAPOEL ELIAT

COACH: MOSHE WEINKRANTZ

JAMES FORREST, NANAD MARKOVITCH, Amir Katz, Joe Dawson, Meir Tapiro, Shimon Ansalet, Ari Roseberg, Yuval Ashkenazi, Chris Shabbat, Eyal Berkowitz, Oded Wolfson, Yoab Bokor.

HAPOEL Eliat was expected to be one of the studs of the National League beach last year, but instead ended up getting sand kicked in its face. A series of narrow losses sent the club sliding down the standings, and not even The Wizard, Ralph Klein, could get Eliat back into the thick of things.

This year will be different. With enough offense to beat their opponents in any number of ways, Eliat is not only a contender for an Upper Playoff spot, but may even give Maccabi Tel Aviv a run for its money.

Eliat has two players capable of easily scoring 30 points on any given night: Nanad Markovitch - who should flourish in Eliat, where he won't have to carry the team as he did with Hapoel Tel Aviv - and Amir Katz, who has to be happy to be away from strife-torn Bnei Herzliya.

Is there a giant-killer in the house?

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

EVEN in a country where Goliaths have been known to take their tumps, it's unlikely the "little guys" - the other 11 teams besides Maccabi Tel Aviv making up the National Basketball League - will have much chance of dethroning the defending champions this season.

Whereas the giant "task might have seemed doable, the arrival of Maccabi's own big man, 2.20m center Constantin Popa, the signing of former University of Connecticut point guard Doron Scheffer and retention of Oded Katash, and the addition of NBA warhorses Buck Johnson and Randy White - to name just a few of the moves coach Zvi Scherf's club made over the offseason - will separate Maccabi from the rest of the pack.

Still, miracles do happen, and wasn't it only last year that Maccabi officials and coach Ralph Klein were gloating about a "dream team," only to see their season turn into a nightmare until they finally rebounded to take the league crown? While 11 coaches dream of pulling off a miraculous upset of Maccabi, they'll focus more on gaining playoff berths and a spot in European competition. Hapoel Eilat has regrouped after last year's disappointing campaign and look strong, while Hapoel Jerusalem is likely to once again challenge for the crown, along with Maccabi Rishon Lezion, who obtained Maccabi captain Doron Jamchev in the offseason.

Maccabi Ramat Gan is replacing Maccabi Jerusalem, and changes in the rules regarding naturalized players have bolstered some line-ups and sent some older naturalized players like Steve Malovic and Willie Sims out of the senior league, at least until changes are permitted after the fifth round of play.

While many teams are still trying out foreign players prior to the opening of the season, the accompanying thumbnail sketches of the clubs (foreign players are written in capital letters), listed in projected order of finish, is a rundown of what to expect this coming basketball season.

CAN two legends make a franchise into a winner? If anyone in Israeli basketball can accomplish that feat, it's Mickey Berkowitz and Morti Aroesti. Berkowitz, as general manager of the new arrival from the Second Division, is trying to inspire his players with the "right stuff" that made him such a success on the court.

Aroesti, Berkowitz's former backcourt mate who coached Givat Shmuel into the National League last season, has stepped down to focus more on his business interests, but remains in a management role. The coaching will be done by Eli Kenati, who has the tools to avoid relegation and sneak into the Lower Playoffs.

He's got a scorer in former NBA and Rishon Lezion player Gerald Paddio, and a rebounder in John Devereaux to complement one of the league's leading Israeli big men, Dror Cohen. He's got spunk, to be provided by Danny Gott and feisty point guard Gilad Simoni. But that's about as far as it goes now.

Berkowitz and Kenati are building on contributions from some of the club's talented youngsters, including Barak Leibowitz, and hoping veterans Eran Bergstein and Moti Ben-Bassat can contribute off the bench. If another talented foreigner is found and Mickey and Morti's magic seeps in, the newcomers may yet make a place for themselves in the National League.

10. HAPOEL SAFED

COACH: MOSHE WEINKRANTZ

ANDRE SPENCER, MELVYN NEUBERN, Erez Hazan, Menahem Atlas, Ronen Erlich, James Terry, Elad Tziflik, Eran Sa'ar, Ilan Maman, Eyal Lotail, Ilan Amar, Shai Azulai.

EVEN the Elders of Safed were astonished by the club's impressive showing in the early going last season. Led by guard Melvyn Neubern and Cedric Glover, Safed looked like it might make a Korac Cup spot. However, a brief disappearing act by Neubern started a downturn, and the club ran out of steam after that.

Money problems had forced the club to reduce its expectations this season, but Safed announced recently that Neubern's coming back, and enthusiastic crowds and the inspired play of captain Erez Hazan and virtuoso foreigner Andre Spencer might keep the club in the hunt for a Korac Cup berth.

Ronen Erlich takes over at the point after a season in Eilat, while veteran naturalized player James Terry, 36, is being counted on to make up for the loss of Glover underneath. That's a tall order, and Terry is also unlikely to soon make Safed fans forget Nir Richlis, who also left the club. Menahem Atlas - who suffered through a season with Gvat last year - isn't the answer, either.

Hazan, at 35, can still hit the three-point and plays smart basketball, but his stamina and that of the entire team have to be a question mark. Safed's management recently sent a request for a blessing to Lubavitch headquarters in New York. They need it. Unless the veterans find a Fountain of Youth on Mt. Meron, it should be a rather long season for Gerson and his club.

11. HAPOEL TEL AVIV

COACH: MEIR KAMINSKY

DIMITRI HILL, MICHAEL LLOYD, Uri Lahav, Viki Revah, Zuber Avadia, Yoav Bar, Gil Mosenzon, Ziv Tavor, Tzachi Yair, Uri Shelef, Erez Klein, Shani Cohen.

THE glory days of Hapoel Tel Aviv, when Barry Leibowitz or Mike Large would lead the team to victory, may seem a lot longer ago to the team's fan this season. Budget cuts have forced the club to go with almost all youngsters, meaning no improvement in the team's fortunes over last year. Outside two fairly talented foreign players, the rest of the squad is largely untested, meaning coach Meir Kaminsky may want to throw himself into the nearby Hayarkon River on some nights at Ussishkin.

Hapoel's two young foreigners, Dimitri Hill, a graduate of Florida, and Michael Lloyd, who played for Jim Boehm at Syracuse, will be the focal point of the team's offense. Hill can hulk his way to the basket and should be a prolific scorer, but Lloyd had a reputation at Syracuse (and in preseason play here) for having trouble handling the basketball. He's a better scorer than he is a point guard, but that's where he'll play this season.

Uri Lahav, an "old pro" compared to some of the youngsters on this team, is being counted to contribute at shooting guard, while 18-year-old Gil Mosenzon also gets a chance to show he deserves a starting job. Zuber Avadia, at 36, can still score, but is unlikely to contribute much else, while young Viki Revah gets a chance to prove his worth at center.

If nothing else, Kaminsky - who spent last year coaching at Florida International - is probably the right coach for these youngsters. He'll need patience, as his club is likely to spend most of the season fighting off relegation.

12. MACCABI RAMAT GAN

COACH: EFFI BIRNBAUM

TONY MASSOP, COREY WILLIAMS, Uri Cohen-Mintz, Yaron Lahat, Mor Ne'eman, Nir Matalon, John McIntyre, Yisrael Scheinfeld, Oren Aharoni, Shahr Gueta, Peleg Nurani, Eldad Daigi.

AFTER falling out of the National League for the first time in 30 years, Maccabi Ramat Gan made it back without playing a single game. Maccabi Jerusalem's inability to provide league officials with the necessary guarantees for players' salaries sent Jerusalem back to the lower division, and coach Efi Birnbaum & Co. back to the big time, harrng any unforeseen last-minute developments.

While Birnbaum is a fine coach who had a rough time at Hapoel Eilat last year before resigning, his work is certainly cut out for him. Tony Massop, who had some good moments for Hapoel Jerusalem several years ago, is still a question mark because of health problems, while Corey Williams looks like a good pick-up. The club has hardly practiced this summer, a bad sign for a team with so many inexperienced players.

Still, Yaron Lahat has potential, and Uri Cohen-Mintz made some significant progress with Maccabi Jerusalem last season. Nir Matalon is still trying to make an impact in the league, while club officials were still trying to convince David Brooks to play with the team. For now, however, Ramat Gan fans should celebrate the team even being in the league. Indeed, that may be the only thing worth celebrating all season.

Then there's fine, up-and-coming point guard Meir Tapiro, evergreen naturalized player Joe Dawson who is still capable of scoring and rebounding, 2.05-meter former Georgia Tech center James Forrest, and capable reserves Shimon Ansalet and Ari Rosenberg.

Eilat's management made another wise move, bringing in Moshe Weinkrantz, arguably one of the league's best coaches, to run the show. Weinkrantz, who almost succeeded in turning around Hapoel Tel Aviv's season, is reunited with Markovitch and Tapiro, and should insure good team chemistry. Combined, the talented roster and talented coach should mean Eilat will be one of the hot clubs in the National League this season.

3. HAPOEL JERUSALEM

COACH: PINI GERSHON

BILLY THOMPSON, DAN BINGHEIMER, Adi Gordon, Papi Turgeman, Doron Shefa, Motti Daniel, Pini Levy, H. Waldman, Carmiel Springer, Oren Sadeh, Danny Atliano, Eyal Hai.

HAPOEL Jerusalem fans will never forget the sight of Adi Gordon's underhanded lay-up dropping through the basket to give his club the State Cup vs. Maccabi Tel Aviv last season. However, they will also not soon forget the club's humiliating thumping at the hands of Zvi Scherf's club in the finals, a series that erased any claims Jerusalem had to National League bragging rights last year.

This season, Jerusalem is unlikely to give Maccabi as stiff a fight, although they will again be in the running. It's not only that Maccabi's gotten better, but Jerusalem has gotten older, and may not have the bench strength to compete with the defending champs.

Left without a center when Junior Burrough balked at signing on at the last moment, Jerusalem turned to Billy Thompson, a two-year fan favorite and tremendous player who had gone to try his luck at returning to the NBA.

Thompson says he's thrilled to be back, but the question is how coach Pini Gershon feels about it. Gershon wasn't happy with Thompson's penchant for getting into foul trouble early in big games, and there were offseason reports of Thompson showing up late for practice.

Still, when he's physically at his best, there are few players in the league who can match him for his interior defense and all-around offense. While he has trouble with big men inside, Thompson's a pro, and it shows.

Bingheimer's been on Gershon's shopping list for some time, but it remains to be seen if he can carry a club like Norris Coleman did in several games last year. Jerusalem added some experience to the club as it prepared to return to European play, signing Maccabi's Motti Daniel. Daniel is a coach's dream, a good defender who rarely does anything dumb on offense. He can hit three-pointers and isn't shy about putting his body on the line. He can only help.

Team captain Adi Gordon proved to all he's fully recovered from mononucleosis last year, in perhaps one of his finest seasons. Averaging 16.2 points a game and 5.5 assists, Gordon comes up clutch when it counts. Backcourt mate Papi Turgeman had a good year, with 11.7 ppg and 4.4 rebounds, but largely disappeared against Maccabi. As for Doron Shefa, his hot hand in the latter part of the season and in the playoffs was a

key part of Jerusalem's success, and he's likely to again figure big in the team's plans.

Pini Levy was also a disappointment in the playoffs, after contributing 7.1 ppg in the regular season, but he remains a capable back-up. Hapoel let Roi Eyal go to Ra'anana to get more experience, and back-up point guard H. Waldman is out with a leg injury, which could mean early trouble for Gershon's club. Jerusalem's first-round matchup with Hapoel Eilat should be a good test of just how ready Jerusalem is for the season.

Club	W	L	Pts.
Maccabi Tel Aviv	21	1	43
Hapoel Jerusalem	17	5	39
Hapoel Galil Elyon	13	9	35
Bnei Herzliya	13	9	35
Maccabi Rishon	13	9	35
Hapoel Holon	10	12	32
Hapoel Tel Aviv	9	13	31
Hapoel Safed	9	13	31
Hapoel Eilat	9	13	31
Maccabi Jerusalem	8	14	30
Maccabi Ramat Gan	8	14	30
Hapoel Gvat	2	20	24

4. MACCABI RISHON LEZION

COACH: RONI BOSANI

JAMES GULLY, DARREN DAYE, Doron Jamchev, Eli Baloni, Tomer Karni, Moshe Brenner, Alexander Nikolitch, Guy Kedem, Erez Markovitch, Dror Hajaj, Haim Shimonov, Arik Jimtayas.

LAST season was the one that got away from Maccabi Rishon Lezion. After riding the fine play of center James Gully to go undefeated for much of the early season, Rishon not only got bounced from the State Cup, but missed the Upper Playoffs when Galil Elyon's Gur Shelef hit a three-pointer at the buzzer in the final game of the season, and Bnei Herzliya was unexpectedly trounced by Maccabi Jerusalem.

That sort of nightmare shouldn't recur this season - Rishon has not only re-signed Gully, the league's premier rebounder, but has added former Boston Celtic Darren Daye and former Maccabi captain Doron Jamchev, making coach Roni Bosani's club a practical shoe-in for a Final Four spot.

Daye - who played for Galil Elyon two years ago and is familiar with the Israeli league - should provide plenty of needed experience, while Jamchev contributes the outside shooting that Rishon missed last year. While he may not be the scoring machine he was in his prime, Jamchev - who was still on the sidelines last week due to a dispute with league officials about items in his contract - can still certainly fill it up when he gets hot, and with Gully to set him picks, he can look forward to plenty of shooting opportunities.

Rishon will also have Tomer Karni back at point guard after the youngster spent a year at Marist College in the US. The club also switched Baloni brothers, opting for the faster Eli over the bigger Kobi. Alexander Nikolitch won a few games off the bench last year with his fine shooting, and should be primed to spell Jamchev at shooting guard. But Rishon's chances still hinge on how well it plays defense, since few clubs will be able to match its firepower. If Daye can inspire his teammates to play D, this should be Rishon's year.

5. HAPOEL GALIL ELYON

COACH: DAVID BLATT

ANDREW KENNEDY, JASON DIXON, Gur Shelef, Gil Sela, Alon Stein, Mark Craver, Oren Amiel, Guy Kantor, Avishai Gordon, Drajan Smiljanovich, Joel Kupelik.

DAVID Blatt's club certainly gave it the old college try last season. His collection of young, enthusiastic Israeli players supported by Andrew Kennedy and Pancho Hodges played with NCAA-style intensity, and Galil Elyon was the surprise of the league, but in the end lacked enough offense to get to the finals.

The good news is that Kennedy and league MVP Gur Shelef are back; the bad news is that Galil Elyon is still looking for an outside threat. However, the arrival of point guard Guy Kantor from Hapoel Eilat will do much to improve the Galil attack. Alon Stein and Oren Amiel are capable back-ups, while Drajan Smiljanovich - a 2.08 naturalized player just back from two years in the Yugoslavian league - could provide interior depth and scoring.

Alongside Shelef, Galil has another rising young star: Gil Sela, a forward whose game progressed tremendously last year under Blatt's able tutelage. Sela streaks downcourt faster than most of the league's forwards, and coupled with Shelef, gives Galil an unstoppable break. Kennedy has signed for two years, and Dixon is reportedly more of an offensive threat than Hodges, but not as capable on defense.

Some of that defensive effort will come from another naturalized player, Joel Kupelik, who will come off the bench along with Mark Craver. Unfortunately, neither is a pure shooter, which is why Galil Elyon may just miss the Upper Playoffs. However, much like their coach during his playing days, Galil plays a smart, take-or-prisoners game, so no one should be surprised this year if Galil Elyon somehow sneaks in to a Final Four spot.

DATE	HOME	AWAY
SEPTEMBER 11	Hapoel Tel Aviv - Givat Shmuel	Macc. Rishon Lezion - Hapoel Safed
SEPTEMBER 12	Hapoel Holon - Maccabi Ramat Gan	Hapoel Galil Elyon - Macc. Ra'anana
SEPTEMBER 16	Givat Shmuel - Macc. Tel Aviv	Macc. Ra'anana - Macc. Rishon
SEPTEMBER 21	Macc. Rishon Lezion - Givat Shmuel	Hapoel Jerusalem - Hapoel Tel Aviv
SEPTEMBER 29	Givat Shmuel - Macc. Ra'anana	Macc. Ramat Gan - Macc. Tel Aviv
OCTOBER 6	Hapoel Jerusalem - Givat Shmuel	Hapoel Holon - Macc. Rishon Lezion
OCTOBER 13	Givat Shmuel - Macc. Ramat Gan	Hapoel Eilat - Macc. Tel Aviv
OCTOBER 20	Hapoel Holon - Givat Shmuel	Hapoel Galil Elyon - Hapoel Safed
NOVEMBER 10	Givat Shmuel - Hapoel Eilat	Macc. Ramat Gan - Macc. Ra'anana
NOVEMBER 17	Hapoel Galil Elyon - Givat Shmuel	Bnei Herzliya - Hapoel Holon
NOVEMBER 24	Macc. Tel Aviv - Hapoel Jerusalem	Macc. Ra'anana - Macc. Rishon
DECEMBER 1	Givat Shmuel - Hapoel Safed	Hapoel Tel Aviv - Hapoel Eilat
DECEMBER 8	Bnei Herzliya - Givat Shmuel	Macc. Ra'anana - Hapoel Holon
DECEMBER 15	Givat Shmuel - Macc. Rishon	Hapoel Safed - Hapoel Tel Aviv
DECEMBER 22	Hapoel Eilat - Hapoel Safed	Macc. Ramat Gan - Hapoel Holon
DECEMBER 29	Givat Shmuel - Hapoel Safed	Macc. Ra'anana - Hapoel Holon
JANUARY 5	Hapoel Safed - Hapoel Tel Aviv	Hapoel Eilat - Hapoel Jerusalem
JANUARY 12	Givat Shmuel - Hapoel Tel Aviv	Hapoel Safed - Hapoel Rishon
JANUARY 19	Macc. Tel Aviv - Givat Shmuel	Hapoel Galil Elyon - Macc. Ra'anana
FEBRUARY 9	Givat Shmuel - Macc. Rishon	Hapoel Tel Aviv - Hapoel Jerusalem
FEBRUARY 16	Hapoel Safed - Hapoel Galil Elyon	Macc. Ramat Gan - Bnei Herzliya
FEBRUARY 23	Givat Shmuel - Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Jerusalem - Hapoel Galil Elyon
FEBRUARY 30	Givat Shmuel - Hapoel Safed	Macc. Ra'anana - Hapoel Holon
MARCH 6	Hapoel Safed - Hapoel Tel Aviv	Macc. Ramat Gan - Macc. Rishon
MARCH 13	Hapoel Safed - Hapoel Galil Elyon	Macc. Ra'anana - Hapoel Jerusalem
MARCH 20	Givat Shmuel - Hapoel Galil Elyon	Hapoel Holon - Bnei Herzliya
MARCH 27	Hapoel Safed - Hapoel Galil Elyon	Macc. Ramat Gan - Hapoel Holon
APRIL 3	Givat Shmuel - Bnei Herzliya	Hapoel Holon - Macc. Ra'anana
APRIL 10	Hapoel Safed - Hapoel Galil Elyon	Macc. Ramat Gan - Hapoel Jerusalem
APRIL 17	Givat Shmuel - Bnei Herzliya	Hapoel Holon - Hapoel Safed
APRIL 24	Hapoel Safed - Hapoel Galil Elyon	Macc. Ramat Gan - Hapoel Jerusalem

Preview by Aryeh Dean Cohen, layout by Josh Kalman

Bet. Jerusalem, Mac. Haifa, Hap. PT register 2nd wins

DEREK FATTAL and ORI LEWIS

BETAR Jerusalem, Maccabi Haifa and Hapoel Petah Tikva ended the second round of National League action this weekend as the only clubs to maintain a 100 percent winning record. Despite playing second fiddle to Hapoel Haifa, the Betars ended the match in the ascendancy, while an impressive hat trick by Hapoel Petah Tikva youngster Yaniv Ofri suggested good times may lie ahead for his side as the Petah Tikvas swept past Iron Rishon LeZion.

On Friday, champions Maccabi Tel Aviv chalked up their first league victory of the season, beating Hapoel Beersheba 2-1, while yesterday Maccabi Haifa made heavy work of Hapoel Jerusalem ending 1-0 winners through a late goal by Ronny Levy.

In the Second Division which opened this weekend, an interesting confrontation between newly-promoted Maccabi Kafr Kana and Maccabi Jaffa who were relegated last season from the National League ended in a 1-1 draw.

Mac. TA 2, Hap. Beersheba 1
Maccabi did not play well but still managed to beat Hapoel Beersheba in the sweltering heat of Friday afternoon. The match was fought forward by 3 days as the Tel Avivians traveled to the Canary Islands for their UEFA Cup match with Tenerife on Wednesday.

The first event of the afternoon came in the 23rd minute when Beersheba's Shimon Biton was sent off.

Alon Bruner headed the hosts onto the scoresheet in the 29th minute, as they began the healing process of the loss to Hapoel Haifa in their opening league match and Fenerbahce in the European Champions' League last month.

Tel Aviv failed to capitalize on their advantage and did not look the part of champions. It showed, as Beersheba managed to draw level when Shai Holtzman converted a penalty in the 59th minute.

The Beershebas appeared prepared to settle for a point and that cost them, as the Tel Avivians applied pressure and Eli Drick, who came on as substitute, tapped home in the 84th minute from 6 meters by Yevgeny Kashentsev.

Bet. Jerusalem 3, Hap. Haifa 1
The scoreline hides the fact that Hapoel was the better team on the field, monopolizing possession and displaying the best creative ideas.

Hapoel's midfield, heavyweight combo of Tal Benin and Ran Ben-Shimon ran the play while a distinct lack of chemistry affected their Betar counterparts Yossi Abukasis and Itzik Zohar.

Hap. Taiba 1, Hap. Beit She'an 0
The Taibans ended this home match - played in Netanya - with their first-ever National League victory before a lowly attendance of around 1,500 souls.

For most of the game the Taibans looked nervous and passed the ball around like a hot potato, appearing to suffer from a lack of familiarity. Although Beit She'an had the upper hand for most of the match they failed to translate superiority into goals.

Hapoel Petah Tikva looks to have the "find of the season" in Yaniv Ofri. This young attacker demonstrated how straight speed can be a lethal weapon as he sprinted through Rishon's defense again and again in the first half, netting an impressive hat trick in the process.

Hapoel Petah Tikva looks to have the "find of the season" in Yaniv Ofri. This young attacker demonstrated how straight speed can be a lethal weapon as he sprinted through Rishon's defense again and again in the first half, netting an impressive hat trick in the process.

The Rishonim could only resort with one goal - from a Meir Azran penalty - before the interval.

Eli Abaranel extended the lead in the 80th minute, but Nir Shikva cut the difference down to two goals three minutes later.

Mac. Haifa 1, Hap. Jerusalem 0
Hapoel fooled the pundits who had suggested that this would be a walkover for the Haifaite. Despite their limited abilities, the visitors proved stubborn opponents, frustrating Maccabi until the 82nd minute when Ronny Levy finally managed to strike the winning goal.

Bnei Yehuda 1, Mac. PT 4
This entertaining contest started on the right foot for the Hatikva Quarter outfit with Amir Avigdor putting Bnei Yehuda ahead in the sixth minute, driving in a well-placed cross from captain Alon Mizrahi. The optimistic start was soured when halfway through the first period when an intricate dead ball move led to an equalizing goal from the boot of Raz Rabinowitz.

Bnei Yehuda then had Alon Schwager dismissed just prior to the interval for a second bookable offense. A two-goal blast close to the hour finished off the game as the Petah Tikva's hit the posts, and he added his third late goal from the penalty spot in the 87th minute.

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Hap. Taiba 1, Hap. Beit She'an 0
The Taibans ended this home match - played in Netanya - with their first-ever National League victory before a lowly attendance of around 1,500 souls.

For most of the game the Taibans looked nervous and passed the ball around like a hot potato, appearing to suffer from a lack of familiarity. Although Beit She'an had the upper hand for most of the match they failed to translate superiority into goals.

Hapoel Petah Tikva looks to have the "find of the season" in Yaniv Ofri. This young attacker demonstrated how straight speed can be a lethal weapon as he sprinted through Rishon's defense again and again in the first half, netting an impressive hat trick in the process.

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The Rishonim could only resort with one goal - from a Meir Azran penalty - before the interval.

Eli Abaranel extended the lead in the 80th minute, but Nir Shikva cut the difference down to two goals three minutes later.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Zakaria Hidon (0)	Mac. Haifa (1)	Hap. Beersheba (1)	Hap. Taiba (1)	Hap. Beit She'an (0)
Mac. Tel Aviv (1)	Hap. Haifa (1)	Hap. Jerusalem (0)	Bnei Yehuda (1)	Mac. PT (4)
Iron Rishon (0)	Hap. Petah Tikva (3)	Hap. Ramat Gan (0)	Hap. Ashdod (0)	Hap. Kiryat Sava (0)

SECOND DIVISION

Mac. Haifa (1)	Hap. Jerusalem (0)	Hap. Ashdod (0)	Hap. Kiryat Sava (0)
Hap. Beersheba (1)	Hap. Ramat Gan (0)	Hap. Petah Tikva (3)	Hap. Taiba (1)
Hap. Haifa (1)	Hap. Jerusalem (0)	Hap. Ashdod (0)	Hap. Kiryat Sava (0)



FINALIST - Michael Chang hits the ball back to Andre Agassi during their US Open semifinal match yesterday.

Chang beats Agassi, Graf downs Hingis

NEW YORK (AP) - Michael Chang, proving No. 2 seeding was no mistake, thrashed No. 6 Andre Agassi 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 yesterday to advance to his first U.S. Open men's singles final.

Chang, who will be playing in his fourth Grand Slam tournament title match, including his second this year, will play the winner of yesterday's second men's late semifinal between top-seeded Pete Sampras, the defending champion, and No. 4 Goran Ivanisevic.

Earlier, Steffi Graf got her game into high gear and defeated 15-year-old Martina Hingis 7-5, 6-3 to return to the women's final for the fourth consecutive year.

Despite being ranked No. 3 in the world, five spots above Agassi, Chang was not the favorite in the battle for supremacy among the residents of the western American state of Nevada. Chang is from Henderson, Nevada, Agassi is from Las Vegas.

They both play similar all-court games, usually pounding away from the baseline with huge groundstrokes, but never afraid to go to the net.

On this day, Chang won every battle, serving 16 aces - the last one on match point - to just four for Agassi.

Agassi led only in unforced errors, making nearly twice as many as Chang.

Forced to play a witting game, defending champion Graf finally got her game going to defeat Hingis. Graf will face Monica Seles in a replay of last year's title match. Seles won her semifinal on Friday, defeating fourth-seeded Conchita Martinez 6-4, 6-3 before rain halted play at the National Tennis Center.

Graf also won the year's final Grand Slam tournament in 1993 and lost the 1994 championship match to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. Graf's first two US Open titles came in 1988-89.

The Graf-Hingis battle began on Friday, only to be suspended in the second game with Hingis leading 1-0.

Graf, seeking her 21st Grand Slam tournament title, struggled early yesterday as Hingis forced her elder to wait. At the end of the changeovers, Graf was on the baseline, ready to play, while Hingis still was sitting in her chair.

On Thursday, Pete Sampras, sick to his stomach, summoned all his Grand Slam courage to beat Spaniard Alex Corretja in a fifth-set tiebreaker that ended a four-hour nine-minute, epic struggle.

Sampras vomited on court at one juncture and was doubled over in pain after every point of the tiebreak but saw the tournament's longest match end on a Corretja double fault for a 7-6 (7-5), 5-7, 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (9-7) triumph that put him into the semifinals.

Defending champion Sampras, helped from the court to rapturous cheers, advanced to a final four showdown against fourth-seeded Croatian Goran Ivanisevic, who put an end to the glorious Grand Slam career of Stefan Edberg.

The owner of six major crowns, Edberg fell 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (11-9) to finish the 54th successive and final Grand Slam event. The Swede announced his retirement plans earlier this season.

Russia, which lost Alexei Zhemnov in the first period because of an apparent shoulder injury, converted one of three power plays. Finland failed on seven advantages, including a full two minutes of 5-on-3 late in the game.

A crowd of 15,347 - significantly more than turned out for Canada's 4-1 victory over Germany on Thursday night in Montreal - attended the game at the Corel Center. They were treated to occasional brilliant playmaking, along with long stretches of neutral-zone circling.

Still, it was a marked improvement for the Russians, who also lost to Canada in round-robin play.

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Russia to face US in hockey World Cup semifinal

KANATA, Ontario (AP) - Buffalo Sabres backup Andrei Trefilov made 27 saves as Russia beat Finland 5-0 to advance to a World Cup semifinal against the US.

Andrei Kovalev, Sergei Gonchar, Andrei Nikolishin, Dmitri Yuskov and Andrei Kovalenko scored for Russia Friday night. The Russians face the United States today at Kanata. The US won the North American pool, clinching a quarter-final bye with a 5-2 victory over Russia.

"We have to play the same disciplined game and play hard defensively and play together like we did tonight to beat the Americans," said Trefilov, 8-8-1 with a 3.51 GAA in 22 games for Buffalo in the NHL last season.

Canada was scheduled to play Sweden last night in Philadelphia in the other semifinal. The best-of-3 championship series begins Tuesday night at Philadelphia.

EUROPEAN DIVISION

Sweden	3	3	0	14	3	6
Finland	4	1	0	17	16	4
Germany	3	1	0	2	11	2
Czech Rep.	3	0	0	3	4	17

AMERICAN DIVISION

US	3	3	0	1	19	6
Canada	3	2	0	1	11	10
Russia	4	2	0	2	17	4
Slovakia	3	0	0	3	9	19

Advanced to semifinals:
Sweden, Finland, Germany, Czech Rep., USA, Canada, Russia, Slovakia

Man. Utd. crushes Leeds

LONDON (Reuters) - Eric Cantona missed a first-half penalty against his old club Leeds, but his Manchester United side still cruised to a 4-0 away win yesterday to put their English title defense back on track.

Cantona, who walked out on the Yorkshire side in 1992 within months of helping them to the championship, sent goalkeeper Nigel Martyn the wrong way from the spot kick but rolled the ball wide of the post.

But the Frenchman, captain this season, made amends by scoring United's fourth goal in the final minute.

Earlier, a bizarre own-goal from Martyn, and strikes from Nicky Butt and Czech international Karel Poborsky, propelled the defending champions forward.

There were also 4-0 wins for Wimbledon and Middlesbrough, for whom Fabrizio Ravanelli scored his fifth and sixth goals of the season.

But no-one overhauled Sheffield Wednesday at the top of the league, even though they lost 2-0 at home to Chelsea. It was their first defeat of the season.

Wednesday has 12 points from five games, with Chelsea one point behind in second place.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Sheff. Wed.	5	4	0	1	6	5	12
Liverpool	5	3	2	0	6	4	11
Aston Villa	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Man. United	5	2	3	0	12	5	9
Newcastle	5	3	0	2	12	6	8
Middlesbrough	5	2	2	1	9	7	6
Leeds	5	2	2	1	5	9	7
Wolves	5	1	3	1	7	6	8
Wimbledon	5	2	0	3	5	3	5
Tottenham	5	1	2	2	4	4	5
Leicester	5	1	2	2	3	5	4
Everton	5	1	1	3	4	6	4
West Ham	4	1	2	2	4	6	4
Derby	4	0	3	1	5	7	2
Southampton	5	0	2	3	1	5	7
Blackburn	5	1	1	3	1	4	1
Covebury	5	0	1	4	1	1	1

PREMIER LEAGUE: Aston Villa 2, Arsenal 2; Leeds 0, Manchester United 4; Liverpool 2, Southampton 1; Middlesbrough 4, Coventry 0; Nottingham Forest 0, Leicester 0; Sheffield Wednesday 0, Chelsea 2; Tottenham 1, Newcastle 2; Wimbledon 4, Everton 0

DIVISION ONE: Bradford 0, Norwich 2; Grimsby 2, Swindon 1; Ipswich 1, Huddersfield 3; Manchester City 1, Barnsley 2; Oldham 0, Sheffield United 2; Portsmouth 1, Port Vale 1; Queen Park Rangers 0, West Brom 2; Southend 5, Bolton 2; Stoke 2, Crystal Palace 2; Tranmere 1, Birmingham 0

DIVISION TWO: Blackpool 2, Walsall 1; Bourneouth 0, Crewe 1; Bristol City 2, Preston 1; Bury 3, Rotherham 1; Chesterfield 0, Bradford 2; Gillingham 1, Barnley 0; Millwall Bristol 2, Rovers 0; Plymouth 0, Notts County 0; Watford 1, Stockport 0; Wrexham 1, Peterborough 1; Wycombe 0, Luton 1; York 0, Shrewsbury 0

DIVISION THREE: Barnet 1, Northampton 1; Brighton 3, Scarborough 2; Cambridge United 2, Torquay 1; Cardiff 2, Exeter 1; Carlisle 4, Swansea 1; Chester 4, Lincoln 1; Doncaster 0, Mansfield 0; Fulham 3, Colchester 1; Hereford 0, Hartlepool 1; Hull 1, Rochdale 1; Leyton Orient 0, Darlington 0; Wigan 3, Scunthorpe 0

SCOTTISH PREMIER: Celtic 5, Kilmarnock 0; Hearts 1, Dundee United 0; Kilmarnock 2, Dunfermline 2; Motherwell 0, Rangers 1; Raith 1, Aberdeen 4

Lancashire wins Natwest Trophy

LONDON (Reuters) - Essex made just 57, the lowest total ever in a Lord's final, as Lancashire won the Natwest Trophy by 129 runs yesterday.

Glen Chapple took six for 18 but the real destroyer was a controversial Lord's pitch, a seaming surface which also produced increasingly inconsistent bounce.

Not even Graham Gooch, seventh out for 10 to a shooter from Jason Gallian, could make and headway as Essex's capitulation took only 27.2 overs.

Besides Chapple, Lancashire had other heroes in Peter Martin, who took three for 17, and batsman John Crawley, who made 66 as they scored 186 and repeated their cup double triumph of 1990.

But though the shortest September final in the 34-year history of the event will be remembered more for the harshness of the conditions than for performances, Chapple produced some great deliveries in a spell of 6.2 overs.

The ball which removed Robert Rollins for a golden duck would have beaten almost anybody.

Gooch's struggle through 86 minutes and 55 balls, in which he hit just one four, summed up the difficulty while Essex will also point to Ronnie Irani's crucial downfall to a delivery which crept wickedly to hit off stump barely a third of the way up.

Murray joins 500-homer club

BALTIMORE - Eddie Murray has hit his 500th career home run, joining Hall of Famers Hank Aaron and Willie Mays as the only players with at least 3,000 hits and 500 homers.

Exactly one year after Cal Ripken electrified a sellout crowd at Camden Yards by playing in his second 2,131 consecutive game, Murray became the 15th player to hit 500 home runs.

In the seventh inning of the Baltimore Orioles' rain-delayed game against the Detroit Tigers, he sent the first pitch from Felipe Lira over the right-field wall. His 21st homer of the season, a solo shot, tied the game 3-3.

Bob Higginson singled home Phil Nevin with the game-winning run in the 12th inning as the Tigers beat Orioles 5-4.

"It was amazing out there," Murray said afterward. "I got up to the plate and it was as quiet as it's ever been. They had been acting like it's a piece of cake to hit a home run."

It was only his second homer since August 16.

"It's one of those things you can't do when you're thinking about it," Murray said.

As soon as the ball cleared the wall, multi-colored confetti rained down on the field. Murray slowly circled the bases and was greeted by most of his teammates at the plate.

A huge banner unfurled down the ivy-covered wall in center field that read, "CONGRATULA-

EDDIE 500.

The crowd shouted "EDDIE! EDDIE!" for nearly nine minutes, and Murray came out to give the crowd a few heartfelt waves. The game was further delayed as ushers cleared the field of the confetti.

Murray is hardly typical of the sluggers on the 500-homer list. He never hit more than 33 in a season and has reached 30 in only five of 20 seasons.

Butler returns in style
Brett Butler, back after tonsil cancer surgery, scored the winning run on Eric Karros's sacrifice fly in the eighth inning as the Los Angeles Dodgers edged the Pittsburgh Pirates 2-1.

Butler helped spark host Los Angeles into a first-place tie with the Padres in the National League West. The Dodgers have won 11 of their last 14 games.

Butler, who had surgery on May 21 and last played May 1, led off the eighth with a walk, stole second and took third when catcher Jason Kendall threw the ball into center field.

After Mike Piazza was intentionally walked by Marc Wilkins (3-2), Karros hit a flyball to right, bringing Butler home.

"I tried to steal second base and I felt like I had a beard playing a piano on my back," Butler said.

Butler went 1-for-3 with a single, a walk and a stolen base. He received a standing ovation from the crowd of 41,509 at every at-bat.

"It started when they first introduced us," said Butler. "The love and affection with the fans in this city, it's amazing. My first at-bat I had no composure at all."

Antonio Osuna (9-5) got the win, retiring only two batters. Todd Worrell pitched a perfect ninth and extended his team record with his 39th save.

Jeff King hit a two-out solo homer, his 28th, to give the Pirates a 1-0 lead in the first but Tim Wallach, who went 3-for-3, tied it with a homer in the second.

(AP, Reuters)

EARLY AL RESULT YESTERDAY:
Seattle at Cleveland - rained out

FRIDAY'S AL RESULTS:
Seattle at Cleveland, ppd., rain
Minnesota 6, California 2
Boston 10, Chicago 3
New York 4, Toronto 3
Texas 7, Milwaukee 3
Oakland 7, Kansas City 1
Detroit 5, Baltimore 4 (12)

THURSDAY'S AL RESULTS:
No games scheduled

EARLY NL RESULTS YESTERDAY:
Philadelphia 4, Chicago 2
Houston 5, Colorado 4

FRIDAY'S NL RESULTS:
Florida 4, Montreal 0
Chicago 6, Philadelphia 4
Houston 2, Colorado 1
Atlanta 6, New York 7
San Francisco 2, Cincinnati 0 (1)
Chicago 14, San Francisco 1 (2)
St. Louis 8, San Diego 3
Los Angeles 1, Pittsburgh 1

THURSDAY'S NL RESULTS:
Philadelphia 6, Chicago 1
Montreal 6, Florida 2
Only games scheduled

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Dow up 50 Euro bourses up

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks and bonds ended sharply higher Friday as the August employment report calmed fears about a sharp rise in interest rates by the Federal Reserve.

However, a belief that rates will still increase slightly boosted the dollar.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended up 52.90 points at 5,659.86, bouncing back from Thursday's 50-point fall. For the week, the Dow was up 43.65 points.

In the broader market, advancing issues beat declines 1,645 to 693 on moderate volume of 348 million shares on the exchange.

Stocks shadowed the rebound in bonds after a key report on hourly wages soothed the frayed nerves of inflation-wary investors.

The 30-year Treasury bond rose more than half a point, and its yield, which moves in the opposite direction from the price, fell to 7.11 percent from 7.15% at Thursday's close.

The market is now betting on a modest rise of one-quarter percentage point in interest rates compared with recent talk that it could be a sharp increase of one-half percentage point.

Inflation worries dominate

WALL STREET WEEK

NEW YORK (AP) - The inflation debate has been confusing enough this year without Saddam Hussein's input.

But after all of Friday's head-scratching about the true implications of the robust employment report, there was little doubt the latest US scrap with Iraq could upset even the rosiest of economic outlooks.

Despite US air strikes to help ensure that Saddam Hussein won't be able to disrupt oil production in neighboring Gulf nations, oil futures prices jumped more than seven percent to nearly \$24 a barrel over the past week as commodity traders reacted to news that the United Nations has delayed the sale of Iraqi oil in retaliation for attacks on Kurds in northern Iraq.

Rising energy prices almost invariably carry the threat of higher inflation, the biggest concern of the Federal Reserve when it con-

siders whether to raise interest rates.

The resurgent worries that inflation may accelerate, making a profit-slowing interest rate hike by the Fed more likely, could be exacerbated by the prospect of higher fuel prices, which can hit a company's bottom line just like any household budget.

But since the effects of futures trading aren't immediate, there's time for the commodity markets to settle down before higher prices start showing up at the pump, and even more time before companies would start passing on rising production costs to the consumer.

On Friday, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 52.90 to 5,659.86, giving the blue-chip measure a gain of 43.65 on the week.

The New York Stock Exchange's composite index rose 3.03 on Friday to 352.67, up 1.68 for the week. The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index rose 6.24 to 655.68, up 3.69 on the week.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 13.73 to 1,139.39 on Friday, but finished the week with a loss of 2.11. The American Stock Exchange's market value index rose 3.31 to 560.02, up 0.34 for the week.

The Wilshire Associates Equity Index - which represents the combined market value of all NYSE, American and Nasdaq issues - ended the week at \$6.495 trillion, up \$15.726 billion from last week. A year ago the index stood at \$5.7268 trillion.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses ended with small gains after a volatile afternoon that saw them drop sharply in response to news of strong US jobs growth before staging a recovery, dealers said.

The initial drop was sparked by a one-point dive in US Treasury bonds that caught European markets off guard.

In London, the FTSE touched a low of 3,856.8 after the dive in US Treasuries, before closing a net 5.8 points higher at 3,893.0.

In Frankfurt, the DAX IBIS Index that tracks all-day electronic trade closed up 10.19 points at 2,542.74.

Dollar moves higher

CURRENCY REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - The dollar moved higher Friday, following stock and bond markets, after the government's monthly jobs report showed strong gains without brightening worries about inflation.

Bond prices initially fell after the Labor Department issued its report on August employment showing 250,000 new jobs and a jobless rate of 5.1 percent, a seven-year low. But prices quickly recovered and by the time the stock markets opened, bonds,

stocks and the dollar were moving higher.

While strong, the numbers weren't as robust as some had come to expect after surprisingly low weekly jobless claims numbers were released Thursday.

In late New York trading, the dollar was worth 1.4920 German marks, up from 1.4854 marks on Thursday. The dollar was quoted at 109.32 Japanese yen, up from 109.13 yen.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Table with columns: Currency (deposit bank), 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS. Includes entries for US dollar, German mark, Pound sterling, Swiss franc, and Yen.

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates (6.9/96)

Table with columns: Currency basket, U.S. dollar, German mark, Pound sterling, Japanese yen, Dutch guilder, Swiss franc, Australian dollar, New Zealand dollar, Danish krone, Norwegian krone, Swedish krona, Finnish mark, Canadian dollar, Indian Rupee, S. African rand, Belgian franc, Austrian schilling, Euro, Egyptian pound, Israeli sheqel, Spanish peseta. Includes sub-sections for CHECKS AND TRANSFERS, BANKNOTES, and Rep. Rates.

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates.

INFLATION MARKETS

New York market indexes table listing DJ Industrial, DJ Transport, DJ Composite, NYSE Index, NYSE Composite, S&P 500, and NYSE Midcap.

Other stock market indexes

Table listing various stock market indexes like FTSE 100, Nikkei 225, Hang Seng, and others.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table listing Israeli stocks such as Amich, Nesher, and others with their last change.

LIBOR RATES

Table showing LIBOR rates for various currencies and terms.

Dollar crossrates (US)

Table showing dollar crossrates for various currencies.

LIBOR RATES

Table showing LIBOR rates for various currencies.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Table listing various foreign financial data points.

US commodities

Table listing US commodity prices.

Spot market metals (US)

Table listing spot market metal prices.

New York metal futures

Table listing New York metal futures prices.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table listing international stock prices for various companies across different markets.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Flexibile

Table listing various mutual funds with columns for Fund Name, Assets, and other metrics.

Shares

Table listing various shares and their prices.

Company Bonds

Table listing various company bonds and their prices.

Foreign Currency

Table listing foreign currency exchange rates.

FRANKFURT

Table listing Frankfurt market data.

Mixed

Table listing mixed market data.

CommStock Trading Ltd. (Data 6-5P-96)

SOURCE: METAV Ltd. - Managers of Mutual Funds and Security Investments. DATE: 04-SEP-96

1998 The Jerusalem Post... Flexible... Shares... Company Bonds... Currency

WHAT'S ON

CRITIC'S CHOICE

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

HOPELESS passion for the lovely Roxanne (Rama Messinger) fuels poor Cyrano's (Sasson Gabai) poetic muse in Edmund Rostand's (1868-1918) matchless Cyrano de Bergerac based on the real-life story of a 17th-century master swordsman, soldier and poet.



It's high tech, but the resemblance to '2001' is only superficial. 'Mission: Impossible' is still showing in Tel Aviv, Ashkelon and elsewhere.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - Watching a quick, sharp summertime entertainment like this, adapted from the popular TV show, one hardly knows whether to laugh or to cry.

"buckwheats," which is vegetarian street talk for "dead meat." The insistent cleverness of the dialogue, the dark, sleek look of the photography and carefully cultivated seediness of the settings combine to amuse us, but keep us at arm's length.

TELEVISION

AND now, as Mooty Python used to have it, for something completely different. Richard E. Grant might not have achieved the Hollywood bankability of Gary Oldman and Tim Roth but, like them, he is one of Britain's brilliant new wave of actors.

THINGS TO DO IN DENVER WHEN YOU'RE DEAD - Written by Scott Rosenberg and directed by Gary Fleder, this clever exercise in hip morbidity stars Andy Garcia as Jimmy the Saint, a former seminary student and dapper ex-mobster, who's called in by his former boss (Christopher Walken) to perform one last "action" before he retires for good.

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6:31 News In Arabic 8:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

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JORDAN TV

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WHERE TO GO

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TEL AVIV

Museums TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Susan and Anton Roland-Rosenberg Collection 24, Tel Aviv, Tel Aviv Museum.

HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374253.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Beit, Straus A, 3, Avigdor, 870-9883, Beit Shimon, 827-2215, Shufat, Shufat Road, 561-0108, Dar Adawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.

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POLICE

100 FIRE 102 FIRST AID 101

Medical help for tourists (in English) The National Police Control Center at Ramat Hasharon 1-852-0205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

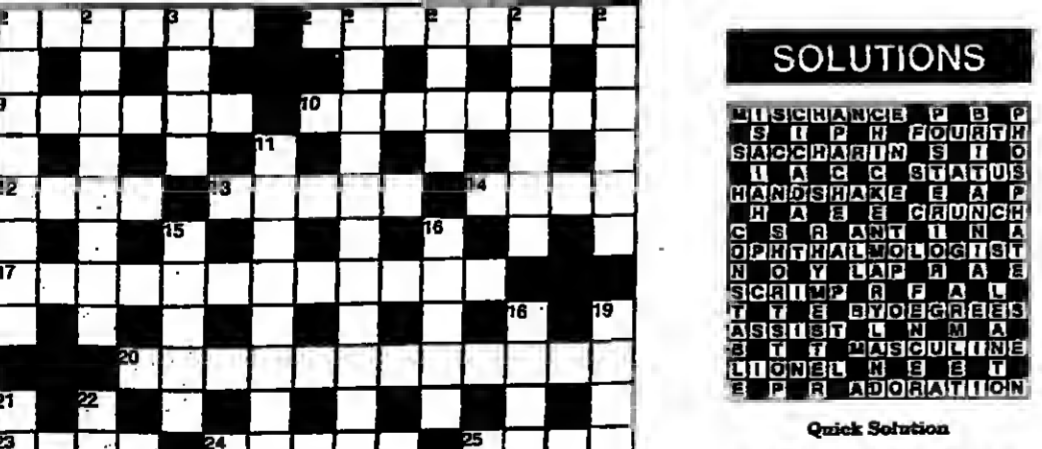
QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Reactive (6) 4 Sparked (5) 8 Uddress (5) 9 Pupul (7) 10 Evolve (7) 11 Boast (4) 12 Spruce (3) 13 Factual (4) 15 Absent (4) 18 Delve (3) 21 Spoken (4) 23 Withdraw (7) 25 Apparition (7) 26 Banquet (5) 27 Landed (5) 28 Assert (6)



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Lie back, having dined, whacked (6) 4 Had a fight and was thrown out (8) 9 Man enters another order (6) 10 Stop when the standard is low (4,4) 12 Work to furlow the brow (4) 13 Invitation to trenchermen (3,2) 14 Illness makes the French quit the league (4) 17 They restore plush, in a way (12) 20 Professional men who go to work on foot (12) 23 Open a pickle container for example (4)



SOLUTIONS MISCHANCE W O U R T H S A N C H A R I E S I E D M A N D R A G E A T I A P C S A N T I N A O P T I M A L O U G H T I S C R I P T A P A L A S T I T E D I O V E R G A S S E T A S I D E I N A L I T E R A T U R E L I T E R A T U R E I N F E R A D O R A T I O N

DOWN 1 Dwell (6) 2 Always (7) 3 Ejected (8) 4 Smack (4) 5 Proprietor (5) 6 Infuriate (6) 7 Incline (5) 8 Loyal (8) 16 Mean (7) 17 Force (6) 19 Dirt (5) 20 Figure (6) 22 Landed (5) 24 Stupefy (4)

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Six killed on roads over weekend

Three-year-old girl among fatalities

DAVID RUDGE and Tim

SIX people were killed and seven others were injured - five seriously - in road accidents nationwide over the weekend.

On Friday night a car traveling along the Nazareth-Shfarim highway in the Galilee crashed into a horse that had strayed onto the road.

The driver and one of the passengers, from a village in the North, were killed and another passenger was lightly hurt.

Police said the accident happened about two kilometers from the village of Adi, as the car was traveling towards Nazareth.

Also Friday, Yuri Maziberg, 33, of Kiryat Gat, was killed when his car hit a truck head-on at the Revava Junction, near that city.

A passenger traveling in his car suffered moderate injuries.

Two men were killed yesterday when two cars crashed head-on near Kibbutz Lavi in the North. The driver of one of the cars apparently swerved out of his lane to avoid a fox and crashed into the oncoming car.

Both drivers, Ronni Cohen, 30, of Tiberias, and Yitzhak Dahan, 22, of Kiryat Yam, were killed. Four passengers in the cars were badly hurt.

A three-year-old girl was killed yesterday in Kfar Sava after being hit by a car.

In Ashdod, a 20-year-old man was seriously hurt when he was hit by a car and was thrown about 10 meters, according to police.

Police said he had apparently crossed against the light.

Nurses strike called off

JUDY SIEGEL

THE scheduled strike by public hospital nurses due to begin today was canceled Friday, as the Tel Aviv Labor Court persuaded the government and the nurses union to negotiate.

On Friday morning, the Health Ministry asked Judge Sara Meiri for restraining orders against the

nurses, who are demanding a significant increase in the number of nurses' job slots to cope with the growing number of patients in hospitals.

But after ministry representatives agreed to enter intensive

negotiations, the strike threat and the request for restraining orders were postponed.

The two sides agreed to enter serious talks to deal with hospital manpower problems.

They will report back to the court before or during the next discussion of the case on Thursday.

Meshi-Zahav questioned about haredim who ran roadblock

BILL HUTMAN

LEADING haredi activist Yehuda Meshi-Zahav was questioned by police Friday in connection with an incident the previous night in which several haredim men driving in his car ran a police roadblock, a police spokeswoman said.

The haredim men ran through the road-block inside the Har Hotzvim Industrial Zone late Thursday night, puncturing the vehicle's tires,

and then fled in the direction of Ramot, abandoning the car and escaping on foot just outside the neighborhood, the spokeswoman said.

Flyers denouncing Chief Justice Aharon Barak were found in the abandoned car, the spokeswoman said.

Barak has been under heavy police protection for over a week, following threats on his life from haredim circles.

Meshi-Zahav was not in the car at the time it ran the road-block, but he was questioned because he owned the vehicle and is apparently connected to the occupants, who have yet to be located, the spokeswoman said.

WEATHER

Jerusalem 17-27
Tel Aviv 23-29
Beersheba 20-31
Haifa 22-30
Tiberias 22-35
Ashdod 21-31
Samaritan 17-27
Eilat 25-33
Golan 18-26
Dead Sea 28-32

Forecast: Clear to partly cloudy. Slight drop in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	
Amsterdam	10	15	cloudy
Buenos Aires	15	20	cloudy
Chicago	10	15	cloudy
Copenhagen	10	15	cloudy
Helsinki	10	15	cloudy
Hong Kong	25	30	cloudy
London	10	15	cloudy
Los Angeles	15	20	cloudy
Moscow	10	15	cloudy
New York	10	15	cloudy
Paris	10	15	cloudy
Stockholm	10	15	cloudy

Egyptians release Egged driver found with bullets in bus

AN Egged bus driver arrested Thursday by the Egyptians after bullets were found in a magazine in the bus's luggage compartment was released Friday.

Yosef Ishar, 44, of Beersheba was arrested by the Egyptians after a search of the luggage compartment turned up the magazine for an M-16.

The 80 passengers on the bus were taken off and Ishar was taken to the A-Tur prison. On Friday he was taken before a judge and fined \$150.

A taxi sent by Egged brought him back to Israel, and the bus, which was impounded by the Egyptians, was returned following

the intervention of officials from both the Foreign Ministry and Egged.

The bus had to be repaired, as the Egyptians used a crowbar to open the luggage compartment.

Egged spokesman Ron Ramer said that as a result of the incident, no buses would enter Egyptian territory from Israel until a special meeting could be held to discuss the matter.

He said the 80 tourists who had gone on the bus to the Taba Hilton would have to find alternative transportation to get to the Israeli side of the border, where an Egged bus would pick them up.



The Neveh Sha'ananim pedestrian mall, inaugurated Friday by Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, quickly filled with shoppers. The 800-meter long mall connects the old and new Tel Aviv bus stations. (Dan Osofsky/ver Israel Sun)

Local firms seek more business from UN

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

AN international market may open for Israeli companies when they introduce their wares to United Nations buyers at "Peacekeeping '96" - a trade exhibition and procurement seminar that opens tomorrow in New York.

The UN spends \$4 billion a year on products and services for its peacekeeping and humanitarian programs, but Israeli firms contract for less than \$20 million, said David Rubin, who heads Israel's economic mission to the US.

The UN is a bureaucratic organization that is difficult to sell to, Rubin said, adding, "once you start selling to it, it's a nice business."

In June, Rubin held a seminar in Tel Aviv for 100 Israeli companies to talk about selling to the UN. This week's exhibition is the first step in direct marketing.

The UN's major purchases include freight and transportation services, prefabricated buildings, water purification systems, and communications equipment. It is also in the market for demining services, as the UN expects to remove 110 million land mines in more than

60 countries. The Israeli exhibitors include Achidatex, which makes protective equipment; Dispomedic, which specializes in disposable syringes; Nitrosoft, which manufactures water treatment and desalination systems; Orhl, producer of "image intensifier tubes" and night vision tubes; Optomedic, which specializes in laser optics; Taro, a pharmaceuticals concern; and Tutmauer, which makes infection control equipment.

Markets aside, Israel's charge d'affaires at the UN, David Peleg, has recommended that the government increase its participation in UN civilian peacekeeping activities.

Although less than half of UN members are involved in peacekeeping, Peleg said, the peacekeepers "are a respectable club and I want to be in that club."

Israel has won international recognition for its field hospital for Rwandan refugees.

And an Israeli doctor, Yaakov Adler, is an executive in the medical unit of UN peacekeeping operations.

Ministry receives proposal to help curb outbreak of child prostitution

ESTHER HECHT

THE 14-year-old girl who turned to Pamela Butter for help carried a cellular phone.

It was a gift from the girl's "boyfriend," who used it to keep tabs on her.

He also used it to set up meetings with customers with whom she was to have sex.

"If she didn't do exactly what he told her to do, he threatened to publish videos he had of her in all kinds of sexual acts," said Butter, an attorney who heads the Haifa Children's Rights Center.

But when the girl, accompanied by the center's community worker, turned to the youth department of the Haifa police to complain about the boyfriend who had forced her into prostitution, the police said they would first have to contact her mother.

The girl fled, never to be heard from again.

She was one of five youngsters in the Haifa area who has turned to the center in the past three years

saying she were coerced into prostitution.

But the problem is far more extensive, Butter said.

A friend of the 14-year-old's told Butter she knows many teenagers - girls in distress aged 11 to 17 - who have been lured by offers of clothes and other treats into sexual relationships with men much older than themselves.

Then the "boyfriends" threaten to kill the girls or release damning videos if they don't do as they're told.

Finding out exactly how extensive child prostitution is would require resources far beyond the means of the Haifa center, Butter said.

Now, however, following the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children held last month in Stockholm, an organization here

plans to establish a data center to determine the extent of the problem.

A proposal has been presented to the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, said Leah Gruenpeter-Gold, the Israeli branch of the International Abolitionist Federation.

So far, gathering information has been surprisingly difficult.

"Police here pretend to cooperate with us, but they don't really," Gruenpeter-Gold said.

Until recently, she added, even some organizations that work for children's rights denied that child prostitution exists here.

Mapping the problem is just a first step.

Shani has also proposed training for professionals - social workers, doctors, psychiatrists, lawyers, judges and police who

come into contact with child prostitutes.

"Our goal is to make them aware that a child prostitute is a victim, not an offender," Gruenpeter-Gold explained.

According to Butter, men like the 14-year-old's "boyfriend" are guilty of a combination of criminal offenses, including coercion into prostitution, blackmail and threats of murder.

There was absolutely no legal basis for the police insistence on contacting the girl's parents, Butter said.

In response to a complaint by the Haifa center, a branch of the children's rights group Defense for Children International, the police admitted they had made a mistake and that the incident would be investigated.

But the damage was already done, Butter said.

"We lost the girl," Butter said. "She realized she can't trust anyone to help her."

Bakshi-Doron condemns secular youth

SEPHARDI Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron condemned secular youth and the education they receive in a speech he made on Friday.

"Youth are raised here who have no idea what true Jewish values are," he said to members of the Commercial Industrialists Club in Tel Aviv. "This is the generation of the future? How many of them maintain the values taught to them?"

"The fashion today among every Israeli, if he is part of the mainstream population, is that he spends a year or so in the Far East, before or after [serving in] the army."

"Some of them take drugs, and the successful ones become millionaires in Japan. How many of them assimilate?"

"It hurts me that near Haifa there is [a place called] 'Alcohol Valley,'" he continued. "What percent of 16 to 18-year-olds, and soldiers on leave from the army, go to bars and their 'culture' is to sit and drink beer?"

He went on to criticize the youth's lack of patience and tolerance.

He noted that religious youth are impatient, which is why they turn to kabbalists, such as Rabbi Yitzhak Kadoury, for blessings and help.

Bakshi-Doron also said, "Today divorce is not what it used to be. Who are the youth's idols?"

"Those who have had at least three or four wives throughout their lives."

He also commented on the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, saying, "That is one of the most severe curses ever visited on the People of Israel." (Tim)

NEWS IN BRIEF

De Niro meets former GSS officials

Actor Robert De Niro met with former intelligence officials here this week to research his role in a movie on the Middle East conflict.

A photo in Friday's *Yediot Aharonot* showed De Niro sitting at a table with former General Security Service chief Ya'acov Perry. De Niro took notes as Perry spoke.

Yediot said De Niro spent three days in Israel before leaving in his private plane Thursday. AP

Peres discusses setting up Fiat plant in Gaza

Labor Party leader Shimon Peres said yesterday he had held talks with the honorary chairman of Italian car group Fiat about the possibility of setting up a car plant in the Gaza Strip.

Peres told a news conference during a three-day business forum at a North Italian lakeside resort that he had held a private meeting with Giovanni Agnelli on Friday to discuss the venture.

Peres, who said he had broached the subject at a previous meeting, said: "I suggested that he have a new look at it and he agreed. We are very encouraged by his support for the plan."

Peres said that the car plant under discussion would produce subcompact cars and had the potential to create hundreds of jobs. *Reuters*

Woman, 80, robbed in Tel Aviv home

An 80-year-old Tel Aviv woman was robbed by a man who came to the door of her King George Street home asking for a glass of water.

When the woman went to get the water, he stole her pocketbook, containing NIS4,000, and fled from the scene.

An hour earlier a similar incident happened on Rehov Weizmann, but the robber did not succeed in stealing anything and fled. *Tim*

Peres named 'Man of the Year'

Labor Party leader Shimon Peres has been voted "Man of the Year," according to a Channel 1 television poll.

The poll was conducted by Mina Tzemaeb before and after the Binyamin Netanyahu-Yasser Arafat summit.

Vipers 'Netanyahu,' 'Arafat' smitten, not bitten

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) - A pair of poisonous snakes named Netanyahu and Arafat flew in from Israel and promptly fell in love, the *Cyprus Mail* reported Friday. Introduced for the first time after arriving on this island, famed since antiquity as a trysting spot for lovers, Netanyahu and Arafat were promptly smitten.

"There's no doubt about it. They are in love," said Avinoam Lourie, the zoologist who accompanied them to Cyprus.

The *Mail* quoted Lourie as saying the snakes met for the first time Wednesday, the same day Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat had their first, albeit somewhat less joyous, encounter.

The *Mail* did not disclose the sex of either snake but identified both as a type known as "poisonous Palestinian vipers."

The pair came from the Carmel Animal Reserve in Haifa. They are now on display at the Snake George Repile Park, which opened Thursday near Paphos, not far from the place where ancient Greeks believed their goddess of love, Aphrodite, was born in a burst of foam from the sea.

Israeli arrested in Athens for smuggling cocaine

ATHENS (AP) - An Israeli man believed to be a member of an international drug smuggling ring was arrested at Athens airport on Friday after police found five kilograms of cocaine in his luggage.

Yehuda Sabbag, 44, was arrested after getting off a flight from Brazil. Police found the cocaine in the linings of three jackets and two overnight bags. They said it had been chemically dissolved and then painted onto the cloth to avoid detection.

Athens security chief Brig.-Gen. Yannis Papadakis said that Sabbag, a resident of Bolivia, had a list of prior arrests and convictions.

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